

Unseeded Rooker defeated by ageing champion's serve and volley

With the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the G7 meeting in Lyons, and the leader of the Opposition in Scotland for a ground-breaking speech, Prime Minister's Questions at the Commons on a hot Thursday afternoon felt rather like Court 17 at Wimbledon on a day when key contests were taking place in the Centre Court and No 1 Court.

In Court 17 (I learn) Macedonia was playing Australia. In the Commons Chamber,

Jeff Rooker was facing Michael Heseltine. Jeff who? Very much the Macedonia of the Labour front bench, he seemed an odd choice to deputise for Tony Blair.

Normally, Blair's deputy, John Prescott, would stand in. But yesterday we heard that Mr Prescott had broken his foot. So what? Why should that prevent a bloke asking a couple of questions at the dispatch box? Dave Blunkett, who is blind, seems to manage fine as Labour's education spokesman, while for Jack

Ashley (now Lord Ashley), being stone deaf never hindered him in his quarter century as an MP.

Other excuses offered for Mr Prescott were that he had been in Greece for the late Mr Papandreu's funeral. Hmmm. The suspicion arises that the ex-shop steward MP for Hull E is becoming a bit of a wuss. Your sketchwriter has met Prescott's no-nonsense father, a rock-hewn beacon of working class pride.

Prescott Sr was dismayed, recently, when his son an-



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

nounced that he had joined the middle classes. Now the boy solicits sympathy on account of a foot injury sustained, not by a crane or running for a bus, but running for a plane to Florence, which is not even in the South of England.

As for missing his Parliamentary shift to attend the funeral of an elderly playboy

— and a foreigner, to boot — we suspect this will elicit few cheers on the dockside in Hull.

Instead we were offered Mr Rooker, who turns out to be the deputy to the shadow Leader of the House. He put in a plucky performance.

But Michael Heseltine, deputising for John Major, never gave him a chance. It

was one of Hezza's best quarter hours in recent times and the old lion left to a noisy Tory cheer. That he said absolutely nothing of any note may be remarked, perhaps, not so much as a criticism, as a tribute to the showman's guile.

John McFall (L. Dumbar-ton) had the first question. He was unwise to enquire about the Tories' attitude to a referendum on Scottish devolution, as Heseltine had ready a splendid rant on the "shambles" Labour were in over this. "One whiff of trouble" and

they retreated. Their policy was being made "over pasta and Chianti" in Islington. Only the thoughtful noticed the deputy Prime Minister's failure to answer the question.

Mr Rooker tried to enquire about the sale of Army homes. Mr Heseltine mocked his lack of seniority (Tory guffaws) and failed to answer the question. Mr Rooker said he might be new to the job but he required an answer, and repeated the question. Mr Heseltine attacked Labour's approach to defence. Only the thoughtful

noticed his failure even to support his own party's policies on homes sales.

Subsequent questions offered Mr Heseltine the opportunity to outline his thoughts on the Union, the need for a referendum in England, Tube strikes and pay television.

In no case did his answer take us anywhere. Yet he was by turns funny, and brutal. This man is an intriguing mixture of stage confidence, and intellectual timidity. Bold as brass, but a big girl's blouse too, in his way.

Major tells Hogg: well done, your job is safe

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR told Douglas Hogg last night that he would keep his job as Agriculture Minister despite calls from senior colleagues for him to be sacked. Mr Hogg, who has faced intense criticism from senior colleagues for his handling of beef crisis, has also received a letter from the Prime Minister praising his work in recent months.

Mr Major is said to be annoyed that the continuing speculation surrounding Mr Hogg is raising widespread uncertainty about a Cabinet reshuffle. He has told colleagues that a reshuffle is his responsibility and he is not going to be "bounced" into making changes.

A reshuffle of non-Cabinet ministers remains inevitable following the announcement by ministers Steven Norris and Tim Eggart that they are standing down as MPs at the election. The reassurances offered to Mr Hogg make any Cabinet changes much less likely, as senior ministers had suggested that he was the most obvious trigger for a top-level reshuffle.

During a 30-minute meeting with Alastair Goodlad, the Government Chief Whip, Mr Hogg was told that he had the full confidence of the Prime Minister and that he could expect to retain his current post through to the election. In a personal letter to Mr Hogg, Mr Major wrote: "The last three months of the crisis over beef have not been easy for many of us but I am conscious that they have been most difficult for you and your department, faced with the multiple challenges of an issue with huge agricultural, trade and political ramifications."

Mr Hogg's meeting came as Labour increased pressure for his dismissal. Brian Wilson, a leading member of Labour's campaign team, said: "Mr Hogg has had it — and all the Tories can think about is getting the chance to add the post of Cabinet minister to their CVs before the Government goes the way of a clapped-out old milkster."

□ The French Government announced a ban yesterday on all British animal feed containing animal parts in the latest move to stamp out mad cow disease (Bt MacIntyre writes).

France prohibited the use of animal feed containing bonemeal for ruminants in 1989, a year after Britain, but it is still permitted for pigs, chickens and fish.

A scientific committee led by Dr Dominique Dormont, a brain-disease specialist, presented the Government with a report saying that animal feed containing the remains of British cows infected with BSE was the principal potential source of "mad cow disease".

□ British farmers are to get an additional £112 million in aid to cope with the beef crisis under a deal agreed by European Union agriculture ministers in Luxembourg. The aid, part of a £705 million package granted to all EU farmers, is intended to compensate beef producers for low prices caused by consumer fears of "mad cow" disease. Most of the money will be used to increase existing EU subsidies for beef cattle, but the Government has the discretion to distribute £28 million to the worst-affected producers and to add a matching amount from national funds.



At the Glasgow conference are, from left, Mr Cook, Mr McConnell, Mr Dewar, Mr Robertson and Mr Brown

Blair acts to calm party storm as Scots blueprint rocks Labour

Continued from page 1
ing performance in the Commons Mr Heseltine said Labour's policy was in a "shambles" and accused Mr Blair of being panicked into holding a referendum. "He has sold out his promises to Scotland at the first whiff of anxiety in Middle England," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

Labour running Britain with beer and sandwiches at No 10 in the 1970s was one thing. "But running Scotland over pasta and chianti in Islington is quite another thing," Mr Major issued a warning that Labour's plans would lead to higher taxes, the loss of the post of Secretary of State for Scotland, a reduction in Scottish MPs and a cut in outside investment in Scotland.

Today Mr Blair will appeal over the heads of party activists to persuade the grassroots in Scotland that he is firmly committed to a tax-raising

Scottish parliament. In a wide-ranging speech on the constitution at Edinburgh University he will tell party members that as prime minister he would lead the campaign for a "yes" vote on both elements of the referendum: in support of a Scottish parliament and one with tax-raising powers. Mr Blair will dismiss charges of betrayal as "utter nonsense". He will argue that both Harold Wilson and Lord Callaghan of Cardiff tried and failed to legislate for a Scottish Parliament and he wants to be the first prime minister to do it and get it through.

At a heated press conference in Glasgow yesterday, George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, denied that the plan to hold a referendum represented a policy U-turn. He admitted that he had changed his mind on the benefits of a referendum as change in tactics rather than policy. He revealed that

he had proposed the idea of a referendum to Mr Blair when the Labour leader was staying with him after the Dunblane tragedy in March.

But the plan to hold a two-question referendum has been agreed by a small committee only recently as the best way of defusing the Tories' "tartan tax campaign" which has been effective.

The committee which included Gordon Brown, Robin Cook, Donald Dewar, Mr Robertson and Ron Davies, the Shadow Welsh Secretary, has been meeting since November to try to solve what Mr Blair has regarded as a potentially damaging policy on Scottish devolution.

But the Shadow Cabinet was only fully informed of the plan on Wednesday night, the day after it had leaked to the press. Today Mr Blair will argue that the plan for a referendum is a key example of how Labour has had to modernise policies to make

them practical. "The golden rule in the manifesto document is we stick to policies we make and we must have a clear idea not only what the benefits are but how we are going to implement them," he will say.

"We will legislate for a Scottish Parliament and a Welsh Assembly in the first year of a Labour government. John Smith said it was his unfinished business but he died tragically before he could implement it."

Jack McConnell, general secretary of the Scottish Labour Party, said the referendum would come within six weeks of a general election won by Labour. A White Paper on devolution will be published within three weeks of a Labour victory, followed by a one-line referendum Bill.

Lord Ewing of Kirkcaldy, the former Labour Scottish Office minister, resigned minutes after the plan was formally announced.

Major seeks to avert pay row

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister hopes to block an inflation-busting pay rise for MPs and ministers by trying to gain cross-party agreement aimed at delaying salary increases of more than £10,000.

John Major took the unusual step of consulting opposition leaders before publishing the Government's recommendations on salary increases next week. He is anxious to avoid a high-profile dispute next month when MPs debate a report by the Senior Salaries Review Body, which is expected to recommend five-figure increases.

Ministers are likely to be pressed to reject recommendations to increase their own pay by up to £18,000, restricting themselves to inflation-linked increases. The move signals a repeat of tactics that backfired on Baroness Thatcher, who was overruled by MPs after she tried to peg pay rises in 1983 after rejecting recommended increases for Cabinet ministers.

Ministers hope that MPs will accept a modest increase, probably next January, with the promise of a much higher salary to come into effect after the general election. However more than 70 MPs who are about to retire, and others in danger of losing their seats, are anxious to ensure a full pay rise before the general election, to be reflected in heavily enhanced pensions.

Cabinet sources suggested yesterday that it would be possible to delay the increase until after the election but backdate the increase for pension purposes only.

The decision to press for cross-party consensus is also seen by ministers as an attempt to put the Labour leadership on the spot. The Labour front bench has repeatedly opposed the practice of the Commons setting MPs' pay and has abstained from several votes in the past.

Tebbit leads attacks on Dr Masari

Lord Tebbit, a victim of IRA bombers in the attack on the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984, last night led calls for the Home Secretary to deport Muhammad al-Masari, the dissident Saudi scientist, over his claim during a BBC radio interview that the bombers who killed 19 US servicemen in Dhahran had an "intellectually very strong" case.

MPs were pressing Michael Howard to revoke his "exceptional leave" to remain in Britain. Lord Tebbit said: "There is now an intellectual justification for the Home Secretary to reopen the procedures to deport this man."

Hunt for bombers, page 14

Goldsmith puts out manifesto

Sir James Goldsmith unveiled the Referendum Party's manifesto with a plan to safeguard Britain's future in Europe. In his speech to hundreds of supporters at Newcastle upon Tyne, the first in a series of rallies, he said that running away from the EU was the soft option. Withdrawal was the last resort if a policy of persuasion failed to achieve change from within.

Tube stop causes pollution increase

Air pollution rose sharply in London as many drivers worked during the one-day Tube strike. About a third of Tube services ran. Aslef, the train drivers' union, said there had been a 100 per cent response to the strike which it blamed on London Transport "renegeing" on an agreement to cut working hours. London Transport said it was pleased so many services had run.

Guernsey bans ads for tobacco

Guernsey has become the first area of the British Isles to ban cigarette advertising completely. A package of anti-smoking proposals was accepted by the island's government after it heard that one in five deaths on the island are attributed to tobacco-related diseases. The death rate from the disease among island women has increased by 88 per cent in 15 years.

Ro-ro operators face safety bill

Ferry operators will be forced to carry out expensive overhauls of their older roll-on, roll-off ships at a cost of up to £3 million per vessel to meet a tough new safety standard to be phased in from next year. All 100 ro-ro operators from British ports will have to comply with the standard by October 2002 at the latest, Viscount Goschen, the shipping minister, said yesterday.

Six days to save Becket casket for nation

Continued from page 1

ional Gallery with £8 million of lottery funds. A grant from the National Lottery Fund has been promised, but it is not enough. The heritage lottery fund generally covers 75 per cent of the purchase price for works over £100,000, insisting that the rest be raised through "partnership funding".

One observer said: "Lottery funds are distributed on a case-by-case basis. It has tended to be 75 per cent for works over £100,000. What's stopping them giving more? I don't think there's anything."

Philipa Glanville, the V&A's chief curator of metalwork silver and jewellery, said that they have received a number of donations from people who have been inspired by the cause: "I can't say we're confident we're going to get it. We're very

encouraged by the response from the public. This has historical resonance and a wonderful provenance. As well as being beautiful, it has great presence. It is one of the great objects."

The casket was on loan to the British Museum since 1979, when it was acquired by the British Rail Pension Fund, which was then investing some £40 million in art: since 1987, the Fund has been selling off the collection in a series of sales at Sotheby's. As the casket was in a German collection before being purchased by the BR Fund, it is not bound by export rules.

July 4 is Britain's last chance to save it. Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, has the power to intervene and direct the distributing bodies. Scholars and historians are appealing for action, calling for the heritage lottery

fund's chairman, Lord Rothschild, to provide the full grant.

The National Art Collections Fund, Britain's largest art charity, kickstarted the campaign by donating a £100,000 grant. It remains committed to saving the work.

Among scholars voicing concern about its possible departure is the medievalist Michael Kauffmann. He said: "It is a splendid piece. It would be a great pity if we lost it. It is a marvel. Becket was a national saint until Henry VIII had him scrubbed out. He was one of most popular saints in Europe at around 1200. It would be a pity if the largest and most beautiful manifestation of that cult were to go abroad."

Henry Mayr-Harting, page 20

Threat to MoD homes sell-off

By JAMES LANDALE AND ANDREW PIERCE

MICHAEL PORTILLO's plan to sell off Armed Forces married quarters came under fresh threat last night after Labour announced it would force a vote on the issue next month. Tory backbench opponents also brushed aside attempts by the Defence Secretary to allay their fears.

A source close to Tony Blair said: "We think it is bad economically, bad for service morale and we are going to do all we can to stop it."

With many Tory MPs fiercely opposed to the planned sale

of 60,000 service homes, the Government could easily face defeat. Ministers had hoped to push the move through without a Commons vote.

Labour said it would try to use an amendment to the Housing Bill, currently going through the Lords, or one of the days allotted to the Opposition for debates.

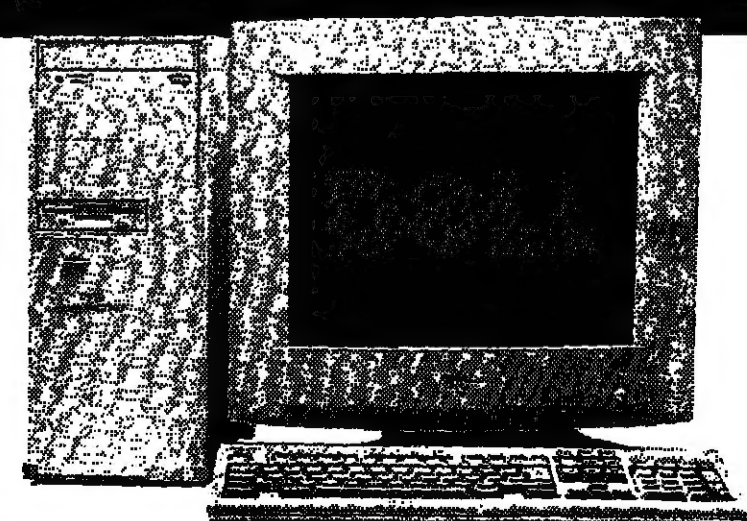
Although some 20 Tory MPs have withdrawn their names from a Commons motion opposing the sell-off, 40 have refused to give in to the Whips. They believe the sell-off goes against the views of many in the forces and groups such as the Royal British

Legion and the Army Families Federation.

Julian Brazier, Tory MP for Canterbury and leader of the rebellion, demanded that the Government rethink the plans and listened to army families. He said that a letter sent by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, to all Tory MPs yesterday outlining the Government's position contained nothing new.

In the Commons yesterday, Michael Heseltine, standing in for the Prime Minister, insisted that everyone in service life understood that as a condition of service they might be expected to move.

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Drug-deal suspect offered corrupt policeman £60,000

By RICHARD DUCE AND STEWART TENDLER

A CORRUPT police officer faces a lengthy jail sentence after a suspected drugs dealer was convicted yesterday of offering him £60,000 in bribes.

John Donald, 37, had admitted taking bribes from Kevin Cressey, 38, a self-confessed criminal, but the case against him could not be opened until Cressey was eventually convicted yesterday at the Old Bailey of offering the cash for information about undercover operations. During the two-month trial the jury was offered 24-hour police protection.

Donald, described by the prosecution as "steeped in corruption and dishonesty to the core", was exposed in a BBC *Panorama* programme. He will be sentenced today by Mrs Justice Steel.

Cressey, of Ditton, Kent, met Donald when he was arrested and accused of drugs

dealing, a charge on which the jury, after three days of deliberation, has still to agree. He was arrested in 1992 as part of a lengthy South East Regional Crime Squad operation, known as "India", into drug dealing in the South of England. All the suspects were known as an "India" and Cressey was "India One".

John Nutting, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that he was arrested in Streatham, south London, with David Fraser, son of "Mad" Frankie Fraser, who was carrying a Browning automatic pistol. Police allegedly seized a laundry bag containing 52kg of cannabis resin, worth £200,000.

Cressey decided to turn informant and Donald, based with one of the South East Regional Crime drug squads in Surbiton, Surrey, had regular meetings with his new charge. Donald, of Shep-

perton, Surrey, was assigned another officer, but then broke the rules by persisting in meeting Cressey alone while his colleague went away on a course. It was while the pair were alone together that Donald took £1,000 for handing over a copy of the police file on Cressey.

Then Donald took £18,000 to ensure that Cressey received bail on the drugs charges. He was paid a further £500 for providing Cressey with police information about surveillance on a Michael Lawson.

Donald also agreed a fee of £40,000 to destroy incriminating evidence in the case against Cressey. A further £10,000 was promised for providing Cressey with information about British Customs and United States drug agency operations for Mr Lawson and a Kenneth Noye.

On December 17, 1992, the case against both Cressey and Fraser was discontinued at a committal hearing before Cumberwell magistrates, but three months later police decided to recharge Cressey with possession of drugs with intent to supply. Fraser had by then left the country and is believed to be living in Spain.

Three weeks later Cressey, believing he had been double-crossed, decided to discredit the case against him by establishing that Donald was corrupt. He contacted *Panorama* and, over the next six months, his conversations with Donald, in which he tried to get the officer to admit he had been "fitted up", were recorded secretly.



John Donald, left, has admitted taking bribes from Kevin Cressey for information about police activities



Tent girl's injuries like those in car crash

By KATE ALDERSON

THE killer who took Sophie Hook, 7, from a garden tent left her with head injuries so severe that they could have been caused in a road accident, a court was told yesterday.

Dr Donald Waite, a Home Office pathologist, said Sophie's bruises were like those of an accident victim whose head strikes the windscreen or the side of the car. He confirmed that all the injuries he had accounted for were inflicted while she was alive.

Three children told Chester Crown Court on a video link that they saw Howard Hughes, who is accused of Sophie's murder, lingering on a bridge path at the bottom of the garden on the afternoon of July 29. The prosecution says that was when Sophie, her siblings and cousins were playing in the garden, some of them wearing little clothing, and chanting excitedly about camping in a tent that night.

On Wednesday, Gerard Elias, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Hughes "had heard and perhaps seen the children and he was lurking to get a better view".

Sophie, from Great Budworth, Cheshire, was taken from a tent in her uncle's garden in Llandudno under cover of darkness and subjected to a violent attack before being strangled. Mr Hughes, 31, from Colwyn Bay, North Wales, denies murder and double rape.

The case continues.

Barrister four times over drink-drive limit may go to jail

By TIM JONES

A BARRISTER was warned yesterday that he faces a jail sentence after he was found to be four times over the drink-drive limit when his car was stopped. James Bonney, QC, told police patrol officers: "I am a High Court judge. Take me home."

Michael Wenman, presiding at Lytham Magistrates' Court, Lancashire, told him the court was considering a custodial sentence after hearing Bonney, 47, had been banned from driving for 18 months after being convicted six years ago for driving over the limit.

The court was told that Bonney, who has chambers in Manchester and London, had been placed on a list of counsel who might be invited to become judges in the Chancery Division of the High Court.

David Forbes, for the prosecution, said that on a May afternoon police saw him mount the kerb twice as he drove at 25 mph down at road at Lytham. Although signalled to stop, Bonney continued down two other roads before halting.

Mr Forbes said that at first Bonney denied drinking but then said he had been drinking heavily the previous evening. "He did not give a roadside breath test and was cautioned by police. A breath test at the police station showed 130 units of alcohol in his blood against the legal maximum of 35."

Richard Henriques, QC, for the defence, said: "He is not a

drinker. You may think that an extraordinary statement but what has happened is that on two occasions he has been basically drunk too much."

He added: "This conviction must have ended any judicial career he may have hoped for. He must expect shame and disgrace other members of the community could not suffer. Since this event he has not worked or consumed any alcohol whatsoever."

Mr Henriques said that at the time of the offence his client, a church lay reader, was unwell. His father had died of cancer and his daughter had been in hospital. He had also found that he could not cope with his workload since becoming a QC.

He will be sentenced after magistrates have considered reports.



Bonney has not worked since the breath test

هكذا امر الفصل



Jennifer Powell, who was dismissed from her £24,000-a-year job by Peter Fenwick for allegedly stealing bonuses

Fenwicks executive sacked for theft

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE deputy chairman of Fenwicks department store sacked an executive after accusing her of stealing staff Christmas bonuses, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Peter Fenwick dismissed Jennifer Powell from her post as building manager and company secretary at Chesterfield House, a mansion block in Mayfair, central London, where Fenwicks owned a number of flats. Mrs Powell, who was paid £24,000 a year and had a rent-free flat, is claiming unfair dismissal. She denies theft and says she was not given a fair hearing.

The tribunal was told that two porters at the flats found



Chesterfield House, where Fenwicks owns flats

discrepancies in the Christmas bonuses dating back two years. Jim Gorman and David Reeves kept diaries of their bonus in 1995 and found that they received about £50

each, although two residents alone had given £700 and £45 each to be shared among a staff of 12. The bonuses were paid directly to Mrs Powell. She claimed that she with-

held some of the bonus until after Christmas without telling the staff, but had intended to pay them. But before she could do so, she was sacked.

Mrs Powell, of Bourne-mouth, Dorset, was dismissed in January for gross misconduct after the porters told one of the building's owners, David Atterton, a former director of the Bank of England, of their suspicions. He informed Mr Fenwick.

Peter Oldham, for Mrs Powell, said that his client was an exemplary manager who arranged Christmas parties for staff and bought them each a turkey. Mr Fenwick had not given her a fair hearing.

The tribunal was adjourned until November 12.

Woman was shot dead in row over swearing

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN of 55 was shot dead on her doorstep after telling her son's friend to stop swearing, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mary Wilding was hit in the neck by a blast from a shotgun fired by Andrew McLeod, 41, who then turned the gun on himself.

The inquest at Milton Keynes was told that moments earlier the two had argued when McLeod, who was drunk, began shouting and swearing outside Mrs Wilding's home in the town. Witnesses said they heard McLeod say: "I'm going to shoot you. You've had it now - I'm going to kill you."

McLeod had been to a barbecue nearby on the night of the shooting in August last year. His girlfriend, Una Kear, said he had been drinking and smoking cannabis.

Mrs Wilding's son, Kevin, 31, said he saw McLeod after going out to close the gate. "He was very abusive. I can't remember the exact words but my mum told him off."

In a statement read out at the inquest, Wilhelmina Sharpe, a neighbour, described how she heard McLeod threaten to kill Mrs Wilding. He went away and returned with a gun. She heard a "loud shot and saw sparks". Seconds later there was another shot, she said.

The deputy North Bucks coroner, Peter Lovegrove, recorded verdicts of unlawful killing and suicide.

Victim's 12 days in witness box

A JAPANESE student, the victim of an alleged gang rape, yesterday finished giving evidence after 12 days in the witness box at the Old Bailey.

The student, 20, said she had been kept naked as a prisoner for 48 hours by six teenagers who took it in turns to rape and assault her. She was so traumatised that she

was unable to talk to police for two days.

She was cross-examined by 11 barristers and frequently broke down in tears. The student, who had been in London for less than a month, said she was lured into a trap by a 16-year-old after a sight-seeing trip in Leicester Square. The accused are Jason

Baksh, 17, his brother Mark, 21, Aynon Waite, 18, all of Tulse Hill, and Roger Leslie, 19, of Brixton, south London. A 15-year-old from Streatham and 16-year-old from Tulse Hill may not be identified.

They variously deny rape, indecent assault and aiding and abetting rape between October 12 and 14 last year.

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City children win village breaks despite the bicker of Dibley

By TIM JONES

DEPRIVED inner-city children will soon be playing in the leafy lanes of an idyllic Chiltern village after a planning decision that divided the community. The nine-year dispute has been dubbed a classic case of the "not in my back yard" syndrome and brought

into conflict such luminaries as Jeremy Paxman, the broadcaster, and Lady Quinton, wife of the former chairman of the British Library.

The scheme to allow the former primary school in Turville - used as the setting for the television series *The Vicar of Dibley* - to be used as a holiday camp was approved unanimously by High Wycombe District Council, in spite of objections from a quarter of the 65 villagers.

Mr Paxman, who lives in the parish, but not in the village, has come in for particular criticism because of his role in helping to secure an £11,000 grant toward the project from a National Lottery fund. He has been supported by the author John Mortimer, the broadcaster Anna Ford and the actors

Jeremy Irons and Sinead Cusack.

Lady Quinton, who lives in a splendid mill house, has said that, as the village is only 40 miles from London, the children could be driven there and back in a day, and points out that there are no facilities in the village, which has one pub but no shop. She added: "If they are small, what are they going to learn? If they are big, they are going to get into mischief."

Alistair Horne, the biographer, said: "We think it is very arrogant of Paxman, Mortimer and all the other showbiz types when not a single one of them lives in the village." Peter Bond, a former BBC World Service announcer, said: "It is a question of peace and quiet. There will be 12-year-old boys, and where you

get a dozen of them you get a lot of noise."

He claimed that the Children's Country Holiday Fund project had already cost £250,000. "For that, they could take the children to Disneyland."

The Rev Paul Nicolson, a keen supporter of the plan, said: "They have made an Alpine mountain out of a Chiltern hill. The children will be well-supervised."

At least 17 villagers had written to the council, controlled by the Liberal Democrats and Labour, to object to the plan. Brian Pollock, a councillor, said: "I find these objections petty and pitiful. I thought we were being asked to approve a site for convicted axe murderers. All we are talking about here is children."

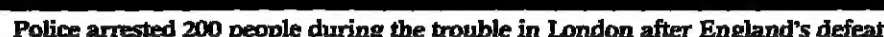
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BY ALEXANDRA FREAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

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Leading article and
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Sport, pages 42, 43, 48

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

The frenzy affected all classes. On Wednesday, the British Embassy invited the cream of Germany's foreign policy establishment on its annual boat trip down the Rhine. Suave diplomats and think-tank academics sprang from their seats and punched the air when news of the German goals was relayed to them.



By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

One reason the police could

BY ADRIAN LEE, PAUL WILKINSON AND STEWART TENDLER

model of the vasa, a Swedish sailing boat, from the window of a Scandinavian travel service.

In Basingstoke, Hampshire, two German tourists were attacked and robbed. In Bedford, 300 fans went on the rampage, looting shops and forcing police to call for help from other forces. They made 33 arrests.

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

The National Grid reported

[illegible]

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SECOND-HAND TOBACCO SMOKE IN PERSPECTIVE

"Today we know that this substance, now called 'Environmental Tobacco Smoke' (ETS) or 'Secondhand Smoke' is the deadliest danger to which we are exposed."

Action on Smoking and Health,
U.S.A.

Is it correct? Or is it just politically correct?

Almost every day, it seems that one thing or another has been discovered to be some kind of health risk.

In one scientific study, even the ordinary biscuit was linked to heart disease.

But as common sense suggests (and scientists confirm) not everything described statistically as a risk is a meaningful risk.

For example, lots of people have been persuaded that second-hand tobacco smoke is harmful.

Not surprising, perhaps.

After all, we recognise that smoking itself is a risk factor for certain human diseases and that some people find second-hand tobacco smoke unappealing and unpleasant.

But what's correct and what's just politically correct? Is second-hand tobacco smoke really

a meaningful health risk to people who've chosen not to smoke?

Not, we think, if you look at the evidence.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency recently conducted a major review of studies on the risks of second-hand tobacco smoke to non-smokers. These studies typically involve non-smokers living with smokers over a long period, such as 20 years.

And this review put the risk of lung cancer from second-hand tobacco smoke at a level well below the risk reported by other studies for many everyday items and activities.

And below, in fact, the risk to health that one other study reported for eating one biscuit a day.

As the table below shows, many everyday

activities have been statistically associated at one time or another with apparent risks to health.

But reputable scientists say that weak associations aren't necessarily meaningful.

So there's no big campaign to persuade you to give up your daily biscuit.

And if you exclude political correctness, nor is there any sound justification for a campaign against second-hand tobacco smoke.

If you'd like to decide for yourself, please write to us at Philip Morris Europe S.A., c/o P.O. Box 107, 1000 AC Amsterdam, The Netherlands or fax us on 00 31 20 671 98 89 or access us on: <http://pminfo.yrarns.nl>

We'll send you the evidence about second-hand smoke.

We believe you'll find the case convincing.

Everyday Activities	Reported Relative Risk*	Reported Health Effect	Scientific Study Reference
Diet highest in saturated fat	6.14	Lung cancer	Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Vol. 85, p.1906 (1993)
Non-vegetarian v vegetarian diet	3.08	Heart disease	American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Vol. 31, p. S191 (1978)
Frequently cooking with rapeseed oil	2.80	Lung cancer	International Journal of Cancer, Vol. 40, p. 604 (1987)
Drinking 1-2 glasses of whole milk per day	1.62	Lung cancer	International Journal of Cancer, Vol. 43, p. 608 (1989)
Eating one biscuit a day	1.49	Heart disease	Lancet, Vol. 341, p. 581 (1993)
Drinking chlorinated water	1.38	Rectal cancer	American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 82, p. 955 (1992)
Eating pepper frequently	1.30	Mortality	American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 119, p. 775 (1984)
Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke	1.19	Lung cancer	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1992)
High vegetable diet	0.37	Lung cancer	International Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 25, Suppl. 1, p. 32 (1996)
High fruit diet	0.31	Lung cancer	American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 133, p. 683 (1991)

*Relative risk measures how much consuming, or being exposed to something, raises or lowers risk. According to the US National Cancer Institute... "In epidemiologic research, relative risks of less than 2 are considered small and are usually difficult to interpret. Such increases may be due to chance, statistical bias, or effects of confounding factors that are sometimes not evident."

Philip Morris Europe S.A.

Second-hand tobacco smoke. Let's keep a sense of perspective.

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By RICHARD
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Charles II portrait comes home from Vienna exile

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A LONG-LOST portrait of Charles II, painted by Antonio Verrio as the centrepiece of a magnificent 17th-century ceiling at Windsor Castle, will be returning to Windsor after its discovery by a London dealer.

The particularly lively portrait, painted between 1680 and 1684 shortly before the monarch's death, has been bought by the Royal Collection, Sir Christopher Lloyd, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, described it as "a most significant acquisition".

The 32in by 27in portrait by one of Charles II's favourite artists is almost all that remains of Verrio's murals and ceiling for St George's Hall, George IV disliked them so much that he had the entire scheme dismantled and destroyed in 1829, commissioning a new look from the architect Sir Jeffrey Wyattville.

Verrio is enjoying a touch of divine justice: it was Wyattville's design that was destroyed in the 1992 fire at Windsor. Verrio's portrait is likely to be given pride of place within the renovated St George's Hall.

The oil-on-plaster portrait was discovered by Philip



Charles II looks down on St George's Hall, as it was

Mould, a London dealer specialising in British portraiture, at the Dorotheum auction house in Vienna. It had been miscatalogued as a portrait of Kaiser Leopold I, a contemporary of Charles II.

Mr Mould said: "When one comes across a new image of Charles II which is clearly contemporary and then, added to that, it's on plaster, bells start ringing. I was so sure. I didn't even bother to go to Vienna." He snapped it up for £8,000, ignoring the £1,000 estimate. Dealers suggest its value might be £300,000.

Verrio's walls depicted

scenes from the life of Edward III and the Black Prince, while Charles II took pride of place on the ceiling. Its history after 1829 was a mystery, Sir Christopher said. One theory is that Wyattville himself might have saved it; another portrait of Charles II is known to have been owned by him.

During the restoration of St George's Hall, various fragments of Verrio's work have been uncovered, primarily along the top half of the walls. There is nothing, however, to compare with the portrait.

Verrio (1630-1707), was born in Lecce, southern Italy, and

trained in Naples and Paris. He came to England in 1672 and was taken into royal service, receiving commissions for Windsor, Whitehall and Hampton Court. His reputation, however, suffered at the hands of the art historian Ellis Waterhouse, whose 1962 study, *Painting in Britain, 1530-1790*, gently mocks him: "Verrio perhaps counts as the most heavily remunerated painter in Britain up to the time of Sir John Millais. It suggests some reflections on the British character that he is also one of the worst."

Verrio's reputation has since improved. Kathryn Barron, a curator of paintings with the Royal Collection, said: "A lot of what survives was painted late in his career. He went blind and probably should have stopped painting then. Some of the earlier rooms at Windsor that can still be seen are extremely beautiful. Whatever the quality of his painting, he did introduce this new style of Baroque decoration to England. He was terribly influential."

She added that the Royal Collection has 14 paintings of Charles II: "Of those, only five are considered particularly important. This is a particularly vivacious portrait."



Sir Christopher Lloyd, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, and the Verrio portrait

CID named as worst for sexual harassment

By PAUL WILKINSON

SEXUAL and racial harassment was yesterday alleged to be widespread in a police force, with the CID among the main culprits.

Independent researchers commissioned in South Yorkshire by the Police Federation and the civilian staff union, Unison, found that up to one in eight women were victims of sexual harassment. Virtually all women officers attached to the CID had been harassed.

"Touching was the most serious form of physical sexual harassment reported by female respondents," said the report, based on interviews with 228 people. "Much of the touching behaviour verged on or amounted to minor criminality."

Among allegations of racial harassment was a claim that a superintendent told a colleague: "You only got this job because of your brown face."

Richard Wells, the chief constable, announced measures to combat the problem, including training officers to act as "advisers" to victims. He said: "If the level of inappropriate behaviour is serious, and if the evidence is there, I will sack people."

Six jail alerts in 22 weeks revealed

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Prison Service faced six serious incidents of threatened disorder, including three at top security jails, during the first five months of the year, according to internal documents seen by *The Times*.

In each case a special command suite was opened and in two cases riot squads were sent to jails as senior officials feared indiscipline would erupt into disturbances.

Trouble was expected at Frankland jail near Durham twice in 12 days when staff thought inmates were plotting to cause trouble on the wings.

On one occasion Tornado units, special teams of riot squads, were sent to the jail, which is one of five holding the most dangerous prisoners.

In another case five teams were sent to Rochester prison in Kent when 67 immigration detainees refused to return to their cells for five hours.

At Leyhill prison in Gloucestershire, staff spotted a white van unloading bags near the perimeter fence which were found to contain six bottles of whisky, 53 of cider, 19 of lager, 18 of strong ale, cigarettes and a large bag of Chinese food.

The documents show that in the five months there were 1,539 assaults on prison staff or prisoners in the 135 jails in England and Wales, 494 absconds and 184 failures to return after temporary release. There were 3,521 drug finds, 14 escapes, 31 suicides and 387 attempted suicides and 33 incidents of concerted indiscipline.

David Evans, general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, said that the internal Prison Service document provided a realistic picture of the difficulties facing the service at a time when prison numbers had reached an historic high of 55,028.

Mr Evans said that increased searches and restrictions on home leave had affected the amount of illegal substances entering jails and action was needed to prevent overcrowding.

Prisoner 'had sex in front of visitors'

By OUR HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISONERS are engaging in intimate sexual behaviour with their partners in front of other families and children during visits, according to a report published today.

Prison inspectors witnessed intimate contact between an inmate at Maidstone jail and his visitor in spite of the room being monitored by security cameras and guarded by up to three prison officers. The incident is understood to have occurred towards the end of a visit when a woman visitor wearing a short skirt sat on an inmate's lap. The inspectors say that staff were reluctant to intervene to halt the fondling taking place in front of children and other families sitting at nearby tables.

Members of the board of visitors at the jail in Kent also expressed concern at similar behaviour, a report by Sir David Ramsbotham, the new Chief Inspector of Prisons, says. There appeared to be no restriction on where or how the prisoners and visitors sat at 40 tables set out in rows in the small visiting room.

"Although security cameras surveyed the room, staffing levels were insufficient to maintain control in this sensitive area," he says. "We observed intimate contact between one prisoner and his visitor. This was unacceptable, especially since there were families with children at nearby tables."

Visits are a particular problem in jails such as Maidstone that house many life and long-sentence inmates. The dilemma for prison officers is how to intervene without causing trouble in a visiting area. In many jails officers who have witnessed sexual behaviour will recommend that an inmate is put on closed visits, in which a screen separates the prisoner from his or her visitor.

In spite of the strictures on the visiting area, the report praises the purposeful regime at Maidstone jail and the good relations between staff and inmates.



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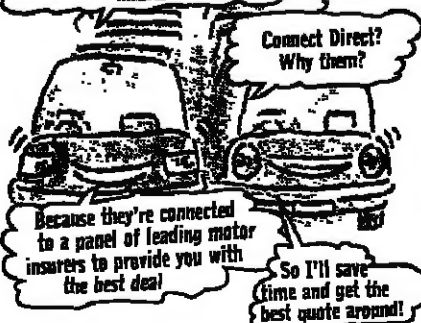
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NEWS IN BRIEF

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Union accused of scrapping 'too critical' history

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE National Union of Teachers is scrapping an official history it had commissioned to mark its 125th anniversary because the book is too critical, the author claimed yesterday.

The union had been planning to publish the history of its past 25 years before next Easter. But five months after the 80,000-word manuscript was delivered on time to the union, it is still with Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, and has yet to be seen by the committee organising the anniversary celebrations.

Stephen Bates, the *Guardian* journalist who completed the book in January, said Mr McAvoy had cancelled nine separate meetings to discuss changes sought by the union. Bates now understood that a decision had been taken not to publish, although he had not been notified officially.

Bates was guaranteed editorial independence when he was commissioned to write the history, entitled *Put to the Test*, last September. But there was alarm at NUT headquarters when the manuscript arrived. Summing up the union's reduced standing, the first page began: "It has been a very great fall."

The introductory chapter went on to chart the union's decline since 1970, when both Margaret Thatcher, then Education Secretary, and Harold Wilson, Leader of the Opposition, attended a centenary dinner. The union had since lost almost half its members



Bates says that his book is not unfair

and its influence, something unlikely to alter under a Labour government.

The book project has a budget of £175,000, with the union planning to give away up to 15,000 copies. It is understood that some £20,000 has already been paid to the author and publishers.

A union spokeswoman insisted yesterday that the union still expected to publish the book. But she admitted that no date had been set and no meetings were scheduled to discuss the project.

Officials warned Bates that he might be asked to tone down some sections. Criticisms of Fred Jarvis, a former general secretary, for being "verbose" and of Max Morris, a former president, for using bad language, were thought likely to be unacceptable to the NUT executive.

Mr McAvoy wrote to Bates in March, confirming that there were two issues he wished to discuss and offering "congratulations on produc-

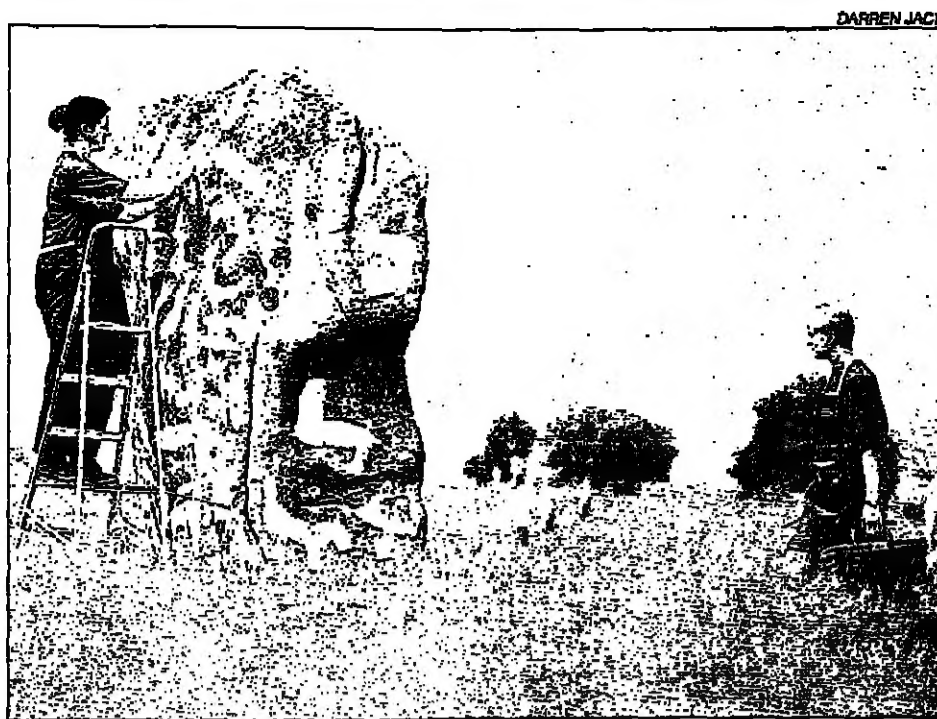
ing such an immensely readable and perceptive manuscript". But Bates said yesterday there had been no detailed discussions and no contact with the union for a month.

The NUT has had a series of stormy conferences in recent years and attracted criticism over its boycott of national curriculum tests, all of which is chronicled in the anniversary book. But Bates said: "The tone of the book is not overwhelmingly critical and I certainly do not think it is unfair."

The influence of the Left on the national executive has increased this year, making it less likely to sanction publication. A spokeswoman said: "The manuscript is with the general secretary and is to go to the appropriate committee. Projects do get delayed by other urgent issues."

The NUT might soon be overtaken as the largest teaching union by the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers. Bates, the *Guardian's* European editor and former education editor, said the NUT appeared nervous at the book's possible impact on its recruitment war with the NASUWT. Should it decide not to go ahead, he would seek alternative publishers.

Education, pages 37, 38



Conservation experts beginning the painstaking task of removing graffiti from the Avebury stone circle in Wiltshire yesterday. Satanists or New Age travellers were blamed after eight stones were painted with primitive symbols last week

Scientists claim totem poles once stood on Stonehenge site

By CAROL MIDDLELEY

THE site of Stonehenge may have been used for spiritual worship more than 5,000 years before the stone circles were built on Salisbury Plain. Deep holes found beneath the new visitors' car park at the site suggest totem poles made from pine, similar to those used by North American Indians, were erected there. Carbon dating has shown that the holes, 5ft deep and 4ft wide, were made in

about 8000 BC, perhaps establishing the site as a place of mystic significance for future generations.

The discovery may help to solve one of Stonehenge's enduring mysteries: why the monument stands in such an apparently arbitrary place.

Dr Mike Allen, the environmental manager of Wessex Archaeology which excavated the site said: "People in those days tended to live near food and water in a river valley, but the site is not like that.

Perhaps cutting down the trees to make a clearing all those years before left a vegetational scar, or maybe there was some remembrance of it being a site of special significance."

Dr Geoffrey Wainwright, chief archaeologist for English Heritage, said the poles were erected by a pre-agricultural community foraging for game, animals, fruit and berries, "probably as a mark of respect for gods or dead chiefs".

Sliced prices put bakers on dole

By ROBIN YOUNG

CUTS in the price of bread offered by the big supermarkets are driving Britain's craft bakers out of business, resulting in losses in jobs and consumer choice. Prices have been as low as 19p for a 800g loaf in some discount outlets, compared with a corner-shop price of 74p.

Britain is alone in Europe in not offering protection to its craft bakers. The National Association of Master Bakers, having seen its membership fall from 5,000 to fewer than 2,000 in a decade, wants the Office of Fair Trading to intervene. Promotions include: Asda: fresh sirloin steak £9.59

kg, leg of lamb £5.89 kg, loose cherries 99p lb, red grapefruit 89p for three.

Mars/Snickers ice cream bars £1.79 for six.

Budget: unsmoked rindless Dutch back bacon rashers £1.99 for 400g.

Harry Ramsden's Chip Shop oven cod steaks £1.99 for four, Robinsons Barley Water lemon/orange 99p for 750ml.

Co-op: British beef rump steak £7.49 kg, potato cheese and onion pasties 95p for four, frozen broccoli spears £1.59 for 900g.

Harrods: fresh tuna £1.44 for 100g, swordfish £1.82 for 100g, smoked quail's eggs £3.99 per dozen.

English herb ham on the bone £1.80 for 100g. Iceland: Southern fried chicken bucket £4.49 for 1145g, garlic and herb marinade

chicken £1.49 for 215g, trout £2.99 for 800g, garden peas £1.79 for 1.81kg.

Marks & Spencer: oak-smoked salmon £2.99 for 125g, English strawberries £1.99 for 460g, Italian-style salad £1.39 for 125g, Californian-style salad £1.59 for 125g.

Morrisons: chicken breast supreme £8.36 kg, cleaned salmon £1.79 lb, tuna steaks £4.35 lb, whole trout £1.29 lb.

Sainsbury's: chicken breast fillets £4.15 for 595g, Cumberland sausages £1.39 for 454g, had-dock fillets £2.99 for 600g, in-store baked farmhouse bread 49p for 400g.

Sainsbury's: beef top rump £4.18 kg, pork bone in loin chops £3.99 kg, cucumbers 55p each, small yellow melons 79p each, peaches £1.49 for ten, 400g strawberries and 284 ml double cream £1.79.

Somerfield: Lincolnshire sausages 99p for 454g, whole salmon £2.17 lb, new potatoes 8p lb, Little Gem lettuce 39p a pack, Golden Delicious apples 99p for 1.4kg, peaches 99p a punnet.

Tesco: top rump/silverside joints £4.99 kg, skinless chicken breast fillets £6.89 for 820g, turkey steaks £5.95 kg, new potatoes 16p lb, premium bread 53p for 2800g.

Waitrose: Mediterranean sausages £2.58 for 12, whole salmon £2.69 lb, large dressed Cromer crabs £2.49 each, light olive oil £2.55 for 500ml, pistachio nuts £2.79 for 350g.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

UNCOMFORTABLE READING

Extracts from Stephen Bates's unpublished book:

For most of the past 25 years, during the professional life of many of its members, the NUT has been an organisation at war with itself, divided in its counsels and uncertain of the path it should follow. It has been denigrated and its importance considerably reduced.

The offish attack on Labour's Education spokesman at the union's 1995 conference underlined for many the NUT's sad decline in public esteem. The sight of David Blunkett — a blind and therefore particularly vulnerable figure — having to be locked in a room for his own protection while Socialist Workers' Party extremists screamed at him and hammered on the window was a most potent and shocking image.

No longer the most dominant

or visionary voice in education, the NUT now represents fewer than half the teachers in England and Wales — 198,000 out of more than 400,000.

Neil Kinnock, as sturdy a supporter of the profession as anyone, said: "The NUT has not managed to translate the respect of the public for individual teachers into a respect for teachers collectively and that should be a major part of the strategy."

Carol Regan [the NUT president] said: "We don't believe that Doug is addressing the issues that concern the membership. Mr McAvoy would like to be in a position of influence on a Labour government... We don't want to water our policies down to accommodate Labour."

The NUT and its leadership have been the hapless authors, if rarely the masters, of their fate.

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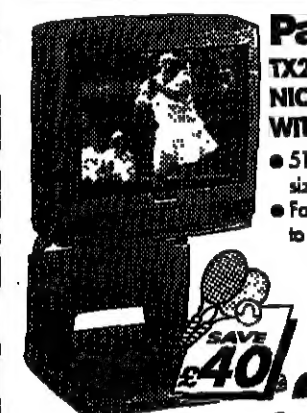
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Court says councils have duty to fund community care

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILS must provide community care whether or not they have enough money, the Court of Appeal said in a landmark judgment yesterday. The ruling contradicts government advice that councils are within their rights to prune services if they are short of money.

The majority verdict means that thousands of disabled people will be able to reclaim community care that has been withdrawn because of spending cuts. The judges rejected Gloucestershire County Council's argument that government funding cuts justified it in withdrawing services from 1,500 people.

The court rejected the Health Department's view, represented at the hearing, that a council should be able to take resources into account when it assessed an individual's need for care. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted.

Lord Justice Swinton Thom-

as said: "The local authority is not entitled to take into account the availability or otherwise of resources when carrying out a decision as to whether... to meet the needs of a disabled person."

The Public Law Project, which brought the test case on behalf of Michael Barry, 80, of Gloucester, a heart attack victim, said that the judgment was the most important so far on the rights of the disabled to community care services.

Stephen Cragg, the project's solicitor, said: "This is a wonderful victory for all those disabled people in receipt of services provided under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Act. Those services are now guaranteed and cannot be removed or reduced, whatever happens to a council's resources. Once a disabled person is assessed as needing a service, the service now must be supplied. There will be thousands of disabled people around the country whose

services have been withdrawn or reduced over the last two years.

"Those people now have the right to have those services restored if their needs have not changed. No doubt this case will have resource implications for local authorities and that is something they will have to take up the Department of Health."

The council said it was concerned by the judgment and intended to appeal, although this would be expensive. Stephen Thorpe, the acting director of social services, said: "This decision will not only cause confusion and uncertainty within Gloucestershire but will also undermine social services across the country. In effect it means that we will have to provide services even if we do not have the money to do so. This cannot be right. We regret that any rationing of services is necessary, but this has been forced upon us."

Bubble children into the open

By PAUL WILKINSON

A GROUP of children who have had to live for months inside sterile plastic bubbles came together yesterday for a party to thank the doctors who kept them alive against the odds.

The "bubble children", as they are known, were all born with Scids, severe combined immune deficiency syndrome, which leaves them without the body's natural defences against even the most minor ailment. A parental kiss could have been fatal.

They were kept isolated in their bubbles, in some cases for years, while specialists at Newcastle upon Tyne General Hospital built up their immune systems through bone marrow transplants.

Among those at the party in Newcastle, held to mark three years of the Bubble Baby Appeal, was Zara Albright, 3, who returned home to Birmingham last year after spending her first 2½ years in a bubble, and Cathlin Scullion, 2, from Gateshead, who has also been treated successfully for the condition.



Party time: Cathlin Scullion and Zara Albright were both treated successfully

Thousands alerted in smear-test inquiry

By LIN JENKINS

THOUSANDS of women have been told that the results of their cervical smear tests may be incorrect. A member of the screening staff at a Norfolk hospital has been suspended.

The results of 8,200 tests, some dating from 1993, are being rechecked by the James Paget Hospital at Gorleston. The women come from 29 GP practices in the Yarmouth and Waveney areas.

An independent inquiry has been launched. Doubts about the accuracy of results first surfaced in February, but were confirmed only in the past few days.

The staff member concerned was said to be someone with more than ten years' experience "who had been performing under par". Mike Pollard, chief executive, said: "The hospital had identified a problem and has taken resolute action to address it."

No one tested this year is affected and all checks are expected to be completed by July 11. So far, two women have been asked to take a further test.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

It's official: our politicians really are fit for office

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, when I was in the House of Commons, medical research workers showed that the MPs likely to die younger than their contemporaries in the outside world were those in marginal seats, or in their first term. Since Norwich South, my seat, had a majority of a few hundred and it was my first Parliament the findings were not reassuring.

The British Heart Foundation has recently been studying those factors that make patients change their lifestyle, and as part of the survey has been studying the way MPs keep healthy. It is difficult enough for the whips' office anxiously to study the machinations in Sir George Gardiner's seat in Reigate without having to worry about neglected health.

There are grounds for reassurance in the whips' office. Only a fifth of the members interviewed smoked, compared with two-fifths of the general population. Members make full use of the medical facilities provided in the House. Doctors recommend that everyone in middle age and older should have their blood pressure measured annually, and MPs seem to be more aware of this precaution than do their constituents. Half of the members have their blood pressure taken every six months, and a quarter every year.

Members are 10 per cent more likely to exercise than

are the general population but when they do, it is for a rather shorter period.

Members may be motivated by a desire to be fit enough to walk through the lobbies at each vote, and be able to fight on the hustings next time. What motivates the general public?

Two-fifths of the adults interviewed said they would take more exercise if only their doctors showed them statistics which made it obvious that it was worthwhile in terms of avoiding heart disease. The ordinary man or woman in the street, or in the pub, could it seems be discouraged from drinking too much by pressure from friends, or by pictures of a liver destroyed by alcohol.

The amount of exercise any body took was as much determined by their sexual partner as by their own determination. The sight of a flabby belly inspired people to drink less and take exercise more than any other motivating force.

A cardiologist said to me last week that death from coronary thrombosis was "optional". This was an exaggeration but such a thrombosis can be postponed by stopping smoking, by half-an-hour's brisk but not violent walking daily, by having half a bottle of claret in the evening, and by keeping the blood pressure at normal limits.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD



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مكتبة الأصيل

Consultant did not tell health chiefs that he had HIV

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A DOCTOR disclosed yesterday that he has had the Aids virus for the past three years, during which time he worked for several Scottish health boards without telling them of his condition.

Dr Sandy Logie, 57, a retired consultant physician from Melrose, contracted the virus from infected blood while working in Zambia. He spoke of his guilt at not disclosing that he had been diagnosed as HIV positive to the health boards which employed him, but said it had been on the advice of his local board, Borders, that he should not inform employers before taking up short-term posts as a locum consultant if he followed the Department of Health's guidelines and carried out no invasive procedures.

A spokesman for Borders Health Board said yesterday that Dr Logie's work practice had been monitored closely over the past three years and no patients or staff had been put at risk.

A helpline has been set up (0800 281239) to reassure the public but the health authority has no plans to contact individual patients. "The doctor informed the health board in the Borders as soon as he knew he was HIV positive. With their agreement he was allowed to continue working, provided that he did nothing that would put any patient at risk," a statement said.

"Telling patients might have made them worried about getting infected and there was no cause for worry as there was absolutely no risk."

Dr Logie took early retirement at 53 but continued to undertake short periods of locum work for the health boards in Lothian, Argyll and Clyde, Western Isles, Dumfriesshire and Galloway and the Isle of Man. They were unaware of his condition. The hospitals he worked in included: Borders General; Stornoway; Oban County; Lorn and Islands District; the Royal Infirmary in Dumfries; Western General and the Royal Victoria in Edinburgh; and Noble's in Douglas.

He told a press conference yesterday that he contracted the virus when he and his wife Dorothy, also a doctor, were working in Zambia three years ago. While treating a patient, he sustained a needle stick injury and shortly afterwards was exposed twice to blood which was HIV positive.

Six weeks later he fell ill with a non-specific fever and, on his return to Britain, tested positive for HIV.

His initial reaction to the news was one of numbness, but a camping holiday in the Lake District helped him to come to terms with the situation. Yesterday he said: "My state of health at the moment is that I am HIV positive, but do not have Aids. I feel reasonably fit, but my immunity is not good."

He has had dark periods in the past year. In October, after another visit to Africa, he became ill and lost a lot of weight. "During the long watches of nocturnal insomnia I sometimes feared that I was at the start of a slippery slide into chronic ill health and that my days were numbered. Restored to health, I now have to plan for an uncertain future."

Dr Logie writes in the *BMJ* that he wants to continue practising medicine. After his diagnosis he says there were two immediate problems: whom to tell and what to do with the rest of his life.

"The advice of the Aids team of the local health board was didactic: the fewer people who knew the better, and provided that I did not perform any invasive procedures, there was no reason why I should not continue to practice as a physician and, perhaps controversially, there was no need to tell people of my HIV state before doing short-term locum posts," he said.

"I have had several such appointments without disclosing my state (but feel guilty about it). I have closely followed the advice of the Department of Health's Expert Advisory Group on Aids so I am confident that no patients have been put at risk."

Concealing it had been a big strain. "My wife and I have told no lies, but it is increasingly difficult to field queries about my health, my recent illnesses and my future plans." His wife, a former GP in Earlsfont and now a medical adviser for the Borders Health Board, has tested negative for HIV.



The Princess of Wales at yesterday's briefing with Aileen Getty, who is HIV positive

Aids specialists deny that disease is confined to gays

By Alan Hamilton

THE Princess of Wales was told yesterday that, contrary to recent suggestions, heterosexual infection is the fastest-growing way of contracting Aids and HIV in Britain.

The Princess, who is patron of the National Aids Trust, was attending a briefing on the disease in London, accompanied by Aileen Getty, 36, daughter of the billionaire arts patron J. Paul Getty. Ms Getty was diagnosed as being HIV positive after an affair while married to Chris Wilding, a son of Elizabeth Taylor.

During the briefing at the Mortimer Market Centre in central London, Europe's largest centre for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, the Princess and Ms Getty held hands as they listened to experts' attempts to debunk the theory that HIV and Aids are primarily confined to homosexuals and intravenous drug users. The

briefing was told that 13 per cent of Aids cases in Britain were now heterosexual, compared with only 3 per cent in 1985. A total of 10 per cent of British Aids cases were now women, the figure rising to 15 per cent for cases of HIV.

The findings are backed by the Government's Public Health Laboratory Service, but experts point out that the number of cases in Britain is still tiny compared with the United States.

Ms Getty was one of the first women to be diagnosed as HIV positive more than a decade ago. She was invited by the Princess to attend yesterday's briefing. The two women also met HIV sufferers at the clinic.

Their visit coincided with an announcement by Dr Mark Nelson, HIV consultant at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, that trials with the drug Neupogen,

which increases the body's white blood cell count, had proved promising in treating HIV.

The drug is designed to combat neutropenia, a failure of the immune system which leaves many sufferers vulnerable to serious opportunistic infection. Treatment with the drug reversed the sharp fall in the white blood cell count, reducing the risk of infection. "Hopefully, it will lead to improvements in both quality and quantity of life," Dr Nelson said.

Gay leaders have launched a campaign against suggestions that Aids is restricted to homosexuals. Last week Jamie Taylor, an Aids charity worker, told BBC Radio that homosexuals feared money to combat Aids would dry up if the affliction was seen as a predominantly gay disease.

Valerie Grove, page 19

Doctors retain ban on sex with patients

By Jeremy Laurance

DOCTORS who breach the rule forbidding sex with patients must continue to face the severest penalties, the British Medical Association decided yesterday.

After a week of speculation that one of the main pillars of the profession's ethical code was to be swept aside, the annual meeting of the BMA in Brighton voted overwhelmingly to preserve an absolute prohibition on sexual relationships between doctors and patients.

Doctors agreed that any weakening of the rule outlawing affairs with patients would undermine public trust and irreparably damage the profession. Under the existing ethical code, backed by the Hippocratic oath, doctors are forbidden to take advantage of the weak or vulnerable. Any doctor who becomes emotionally involved with a patient is required to remove the patient from the practice list before pursuing the relationship.

Dr Michael Crowe, a GP in Leicestershire, pleaded for more understanding of the social difficulties faced by rural doctors in meeting people who were not their patients. He cited the case of a doctor in Lincolnshire who was suspended from the medical register after having an affair with a married patient whose husband complained to the General Medical Council when the affair ended. The doctor's son, also a GP, later committed suicide.

"Half of that doctor's patients felt the suspension was too harsh. They were apparently prepared to forgive him for one error," Dr Crowe said.

He added that he was seeking a minor change in the penalties where there were exceptional circumstances and called for suspensions to be preceded by an official warning.

Dr Crowe's proposal was criticised by a series of speakers. Dr Sam Everington, a GP in east London, said: "It is not acceptable for male and female doctors to abuse the positions of power and influence they often hold over their patients."

Suntan lotions 'may add to risk of cancer'

By Jeremy Laurance

SUNTAN lotions may increase the risk of skin cancer because they encourage people to lie in the sun longer, scientists say.

Although the lotions prevent sunburn they are less effective at preventing skin cancer. However, many people wrongly believe that as long as they avoid burning they will avoid getting cancer.

Dr Jane McGregor and Dr Antony Young, of St John's Institute of Dermatology at St Thomas's Hospital, central London, say in the *British Medical Journal* that users of sunscreens are being lulled into a false sense of security.

"A sunscreen's ability to prevent sunburn is designated by its sun protection factor... which is widely perceived as how many times longer it takes to obtain a mild sunburn, the skin's early warning system. All protection is lost if sunscreens are used to prolong sun exposure to the maximum achievable by the sun protection factor so that, for example, sunburn develops over five hours instead of 30 minutes."

They argue that the marketing of sunscreens as a safe way to stay out longer in the sun may be misleading. There is evidence that this may increase the cancer risk for the same exposure dose.

Sun lotions work mainly by blocking ultraviolet B radiation, which is the chief cause of sunburn and skin cancer. There is increasing evidence that ultraviolet A radiation can also damage the skin and most lotions available in Britain now contain good ultraviolet A protection as well.

Research into whether sun lotions protect against cancer have produced mixed results. Women who develop breast cancer while taking hormone replacement therapy have a better chance of surviving it than those not on the treatment. Researchers from Manchester who studied 433 women with breast cancer report in the *BMJ* that those on HRT tended to have less aggressive tumours, associated with a higher chance of survival.



Dr Sandy Logie with his wife Dorothy, also a doctor

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News at Ten.....Wednesday around 10.15pm
Emmerdale.....Thursday around 7.15pm
around 5.25pm in Central Scotland (STV)

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Most voters believe Labour is ready for power

Blair keeps public's trust despite poll ratings slip

By PETER RIDDELL

A MAJORITY of the public believes that Labour is ready to form the next government and Tony Blair is ready to be Prime Minister despite the latest drop in support for the party in a MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, suggests that although people are less hostile to the Government and to John Major they have not turned away from Labour and Mr Blair. Indeed, many supporters of other parties believe that Labour is ready for power. The poll also shows that support for Mr Blair is relatively lower in Labour strongholds such as Wales and Scotland, while he has a stronger appeal than his party in southern England.

Overall, 58 per cent agree that Labour is ready to form the next government, but this includes 30 per cent of Tory supporters and 52 per cent of Liberal Democrats. Moreover, the AB professional and managerial groups, where the Tories now have an 8-point

lead, agree that Labour is ready to form a government by a 13-point margin.

By contrast, just 32 per cent of the public believe that Labour is not ready to form the next government. The net balance of plus 26 points compares with plus 23 points when the question was last asked in January. The biggest shift in favour of Labour has occurred among those who have switched away from backing the Tories since the 1992 election and among skilled workers.

Similarly, there has been a rise since January in the net balance agreeing rather than disagreeing that Mr Blair is ready to be the next Prime Minister from plus 20 to plus 24 points. This view is even more strongly held by those who have switched to backing Labour since 1992 than among long-term Labour loyalists — a net balance of plus 78 points against plus 69. These "new" Labour switchers are by a two-to-one margin former Tories.

The poll also underlines

how Mr Blair is liked more than Labour policies. While a third of the public like him and his policies, just one in eight dislike him but like his policies. He is less popular in Labour strongholds such as Wales and Scotland, where 38 and 33 per cent respectively dislike him, than in traditional areas of Tory strength such as southern England, where 32 per cent dislike him.

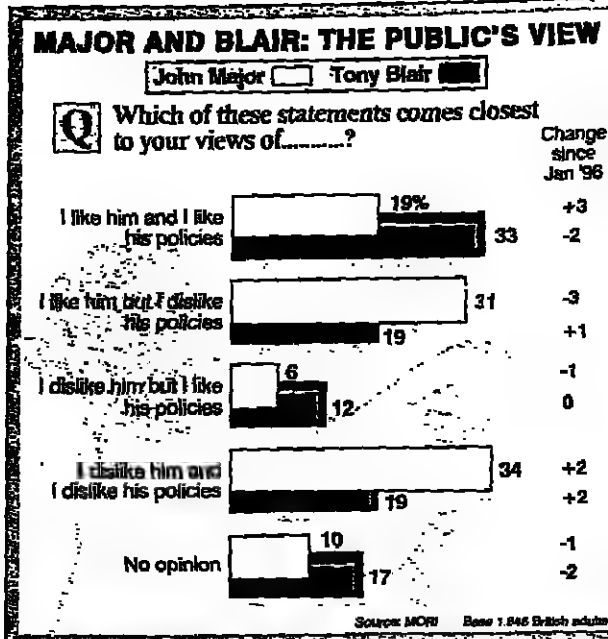
Mr Major is also more popular than his policies, but in both cases the ratings are lower than for Mr Blair. The gap between Mr Major's personal standing and the unpopularity of his policies is also much larger. Mr Major is liked rather than disliked by a margin of 10 points while his policies are disliked rather than liked by minus 40 points.

The poll shows how important the economy and Europe are to swing voters. The MORI economic optimism index, measuring those who believe that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get

worse, now stands at minus 3 points, down from minus 10 a month ago. The biggest shift was among those who have deserted the Tories since the last election, who have moved from minus 7 to plus 8 points, while among "new" Labour switchers the movement is from minus 14 to plus 4. By contrast, the index is plus 37 for Tory loyalists and minus 24 for Labour loyalists.

These switchers are more likely to mention Europe as among the most important issues facing Britain today than the public generally. An above average number of these switchers also regard education and health as important issues, and are more concerned about them than are even Labour loyalists.

□ MORI interviewed 1,846 adults at 144 ward sampling points between June 21 and 24. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent), are undecided (7 per cent) or who refuse to name a party (3 per cent).



John Major and Tony Blair: both leaders are better liked than their parties' policies

Major's only hope now is to play for time

When I told a Cabinet minister that the latest MORI poll in *The Times* showed Tory support at its highest level since April 1993, he shrugged. "Only 21 points behind then." A Tory revival is under way, at last, but there is nothing in the latest poll really to worry Labour. The public has become less fed up with the Tories, but this does not mean it is disenchanted with Labour.

The headline figures need to be treated with caution. The contrast between the 29 per cent support for the Tories before England's victory over Spain in Euro 96 last Saturday and the 33 per cent rating in the two days afterwards suggests that there may have been a temporary burst of national optimism which benefitted the Tories. And there could, of course, be a dip now.

But more important is the apparent



shift in attitudes in the Tories' direction. Previously, sharp rises in Tory support, as in January last year or last August, have mainly reflected well-publicised internal Labour problems rather than a favourable view of the Government. The difference now is that the MORI economic optimism index has improved to its highest level since August 1994, and the Government's approval rating is at its best level since August 1992 — even though it is still heavily negative.

These shifts probably reflect lower interest rates, tax cuts and rising consumer spending and confidence. It is striking that the improvement in economic optimism has been twice the overall average among switchers,

both those who have deserted the Tories since 1992 and those now back Labour.

However, there is no real sign of any shift in attitudes against Labour. Mr Blair's personal rating remains high and since January there has been an appreciable rise in the number of switchers who believe he is ready to become Prime Minister. Moreover, four fifths of new Labour supporters say they like Mr Blair, which is more than among long-term Labour loyalists.

Even before the latest devolution rows, Mr Blair's support was relatively weakest in Labour strongholds in Wales and Scotland and noticeably firmer in marginal seats. The criticism of Mr Blair by Labour MPs has not so far affected his approval rating. But he faces one of the biggest tests of his leadership with the

publication next Thursday of the party's draft manifesto — which will give the Tories more scope to attack Labour.

Despite the latest pick-up in Tory support, Labour's position is still much more favourable than at the same stage of the last two Parliaments. A year before the 1987 election, Labour had a six to eight-point lead over the Tories, its biggest of the whole Parliament. In spring 1991, the Tories were ahead, while over the April 9 election, Labour only had a lead of six points at most in two months. Similarly, satisfaction with the Government was not nearly as low then as even the current improved level.

This suggests that the Tories' best, indeed only, tactic is to play for time — to hope that more months of rising living standards and criticism of

weaknesses in Labour policies will narrow the gap. That is the view of virtually all senior ministers to whom I speak. Not only did they regard the press talk of bed or Euro 96 elections as silly fantasies, but they do not now favour an autumn election.

Of course, an election may be forced by events outside the Government's control. And although ministers increasingly share Kenneth Clarke's caution about the scope for tax cuts in the November Budget, they still believe that Tory prospects can only improve next year. Labour strategists also expect the gap to close. Nothing has yet happened, however, to alter the general view that the Tories will lose whenever the election is held — but probably not by a landslide.

PETER RIDDELL

Maverick Tory sitting pretty after 'ugly' gibes backfire

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE maverick Tory MP Sir George Giddens looks likely to win the bloody battle for his Reigate constituency because of a last-minute plea to his party not to oust him for being "born ugly".

Sir George, who is facing deselection at a meeting of local Tories tonight, wrote to his constituents accused him of looking like "Dracula left out in the rain".

The effect of the "ugliness card" has been extraordinary and appears to have turned round the campaign. Party activists are now embarrassed that their gibes have gone too far. They feel sorry for Sir George, their MP for 22 years. His unusually humble letter said: "I am sorry about my physical appearance but I was just born ugly."

They also feel guilty about his wife, Helen, who is said to be deeply hurt by "snide" remarks that Sir George's appearance is more of a turn-off than his Euro-scepticism and hostility to John Major.

Critics have told journalists that what really annoys them about Sir George, 61, is that he is hopeless at small talk and looks like a bad-tempered bloodhound with a hangover. His decision to vote for John Redwood during the leadership campaign was just the last straw.

Even some of the 51 members who signed a letter urging people to vote against Sir George have now quietly swapped sides. Senior local officials are also horrified at the personal attacks. They are embarrassed that Reigate will appear snobbish.

Only three days ago, Sir George's supporters were saying that he was about to lose. A letter supporting him, signed by 118 Tory MPs including former Cabinet ministers and senior knights of the shires, had no effect. Conservative Central Office

has been working flat out to prevent his deselection because he has threatened to stand down and prompt a by-election, which would wipe out the Tory majority. Yesterday Central Office admitted that the "ugliness card" had been the only successful weapon. An aide said: "MPs are not supposed to be supermodels. You don't kick them out just because they are getting a few wrinkles."

Daniel Kee, a vice-chairman and supporter, said: "It's incredible how people are rallying around Sir George. They have realised that it is

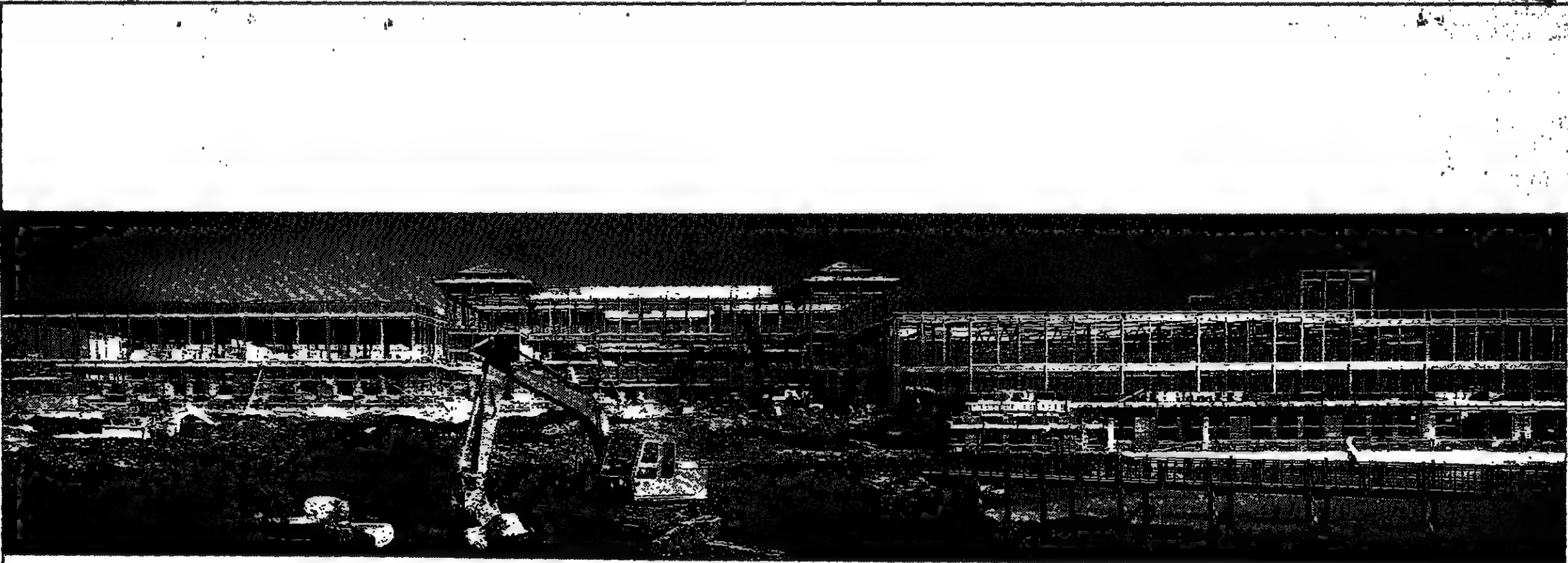


Giddens: apologised for his appearance

ridiculous to judge an MP on film-star looks and upper-crust manners rather than his politics and his brain."

A few die-hard rebels are adamant that Sir George should go. Several have mentioned the good-looking Sebastian Coe as a possible replacement, but he denies that he is seeking to move from his marginal seat of Falmouth and Camborne.

But Sir George's champions say that as long as he gives an equally self-deprecating speech tonight and does not repeat his threat to resign he will win, "especially with the ladies", who make up a large part of the 1,000 eligible to vote.



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BANKING 29

How the bankers to the Queen are moving up market



ARTS 33-35

Older, but just as funny, The Odd Couple returns



SPORT 40-48

Henman swift to dismiss challenge from home front

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JUNE 28 1996

Ban on beef hits exports

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE beef export ban took its toll of Britain's global trade figures in April as the trade deficit widened to £1.32 billion from £765 million in March.

The increase, which was above market expectations, was principally because of a jump in the EU trade deficit from £100 million to £500 million.

Total exports rose £100 million to £13.9 billion, with a 2.5 per cent fall in exports to the EU offset by a 4 per cent rise in non-EU exports. April was the month when the beef ban took effect and the Office for National Statistics said that the ban partially accounted for the decline in EU exports.

In the three months to the end of April, the trade deficit increased from £3 billion to £3.4 billion, while exports rose 3 per cent and imports increased 4 per cent. The ONS said the deficit trend was broadly flat with both imports and exports rising.

But some economists fear that the trade deficit is set to widen further in the next few months as consumer demand begins to suck in imports and an appreciating pound hurts exports.

The trade deficit, however, has not been a priority of the Chancellor in recent years and most commentators expect the trade data to remain well down the policy agenda.

The deficit with non-EU countries, meanwhile, rose from £795 million in April to £834 million in May. Both imports and exports rose 3 per cent, with the import rise mostly accounted for by aircraft orders.

CBI warning, page 26



Doughty effort: Archie Norman, left, chief executive of Asda, and Allan Leighton, his deputy, carrying the bread at an Asda outlet in Glasgow

Eurotunnel pledges to deny banks control

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

EUROTUNNEL threw down the gauntlet to the company's 225 banks yesterday by giving them a warning that they had no chance of taking a majority stake in the company.

At a rowdy annual meeting in Paris, Patrick Ponsolle, the French co-chairman, who suffered frequent angry interruptions, assured shareholders that the banks' demands that they should be given 50 per cent of the equity would be vigorously rebuffed. "The banks must know that a clear majority of the capital must remain in the hands of the present shareholders," he said.

The company had already reached a "tacit agreement" with the banks on a restructuring

of its near-£9 billion debt and hopes to have a formal agreement by the end of next month, he said. The agreement would involve a partial conversion of debt into shares, with the balance being paid at a reduced rate of interest. Shareholders will have free acquisition rights to reduce their dilution if they so wish, M Ponsolle said.

Eurotunnel would continue to seek to maximise its cashflow and would continue its claims against contractors and French and British railway companies, M Ponsolle added. He vowed that the restructuring would allow a "reasonable" dividend to be paid by 2004.

M Ponsolle, who will become executive co-chairman

when his British counterpart, Sir Alastair Morton, retires later this year, said that the two arbitrators — one British, one French — appointed in February to help the banks and Eurotunnel reach an agreement would continue their efforts until the end of July.

M Ponsolle went on to give warnings to the French and British Governments that it was crucial that they agreed to extend Eurotunnel's franchise beyond 2052. "We hope this will be possible in the coming weeks," he said.

Jacques Chirac, the French President, raised the possibility of extending the franchise on a recent visit to London, but the Department of Transport said this week that the British

government thought it was not in the public interest to do so.

M Ponsolle also thanked Eurotunnel shareholders for their patience in the past nine months of bank talks, which came after a decision to suspend payment of interest on most of its debt. "I ask you to be patient again for a few more weeks to see if there is an agreement with the bank. Your board and I will sign no agreement that we do not consider to be fair to shareholders," he added.

M Ponsolle said he would try to ensure that the extraordinary meeting to vote on an agreement is held in Paris. Around 70 per cent of Eurotunnel's small shareholders are French. "We would like the shareholders' support," he

said. "It is very important for negotiations."

If an agreement was not found, the legal position was unclear as French and English law differed on what would happen next, he added.

Sir Alastair, who took a back seat at the meeting but will address English shareholders in London today, said that the company's ultimate object is to increase its revenues by 50 per cent this year. "Shareholders and banks should share the product of its growing success. We must all be patient and refuse to accept the somewhat Anglo-Saxon philosophy that shareholders must be the ones to lose all."

The shares fell 3p to 104p.

City Diary, page 29

Asda to create 3,000 new jobs

By CLARE STEWART

MORE THAN 3,000 jobs are to be created by Asda, the supermarket group, at eight new stores this year. Increased sales at the existing 270 outlets could also generate a further 4,000 jobs.

Details of the expansion plans came as Asda unveiled pre-tax profit up 24 per cent, to £304.6 million, a little ahead of some City forecasts. As expected, there was a strong increase in like-for-like sales growth, up by 12.1 per cent. Earnings per share jumped by 31 per cent, to 7.71p, while the dividend for the year is 2.65p, up 20 per cent.

Archie Norman, chief executive, said that the results showed a fourth successive year of outperformance. "Market share rose 1 per cent, to 10.1 per cent, and customer numbers are by 10 per cent, to 5.6 million."

Asda stepped up its targeting of the healthcare market with its acquisition of ten pharmacies, nine from a pharmacy chain. No purchase price was disclosed but the additions will mean that almost half of Asda's outlets have an in-store chemist.

Mr Norman, known for his gloomy pronouncements on retailing prospects, was marginally brighter yesterday. "Demand is higher and we expect to see it improve through the year." He also predicted an easing of the supermarket wars. "We are perhaps not going to see the intensity of price wars."

Asda's push on its own-label range included the launch of 2,000 new products to boost brand penetration from around 34 per cent to 40 per cent by 1998.

Analysts upgraded their current year forecasts, penciling in pre-tax profits between £335 million and £350 million. The shares eased 4p to 114p.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3678.8	(-16.7)
Yield	4.12%	
FT-SE All share	1843.91	(-9.32)
Nikkei	22501.61	(-105.19)
Dow Jones	5656.47	(-28.23)
S&P Composite	862.90	(-1.43)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	7.08%	(7.08%)
Yield		

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5.75%	(5.75%)
Libor 6m	106.75	(106.75)
3-mth Interbank	106.75	(106.75)

STERLING

New York	1.5487	(1.5485)
London	1.5480	(1.5425)
DM	2.3625	(2.3579)
FF	7.9901	(7.9772)
SP	1.3038	(1.3028)
Yen	168.56	(168.43)
£ Index	85.9	(85.9)

US \$ DOLLAR

London	1.5487	(1.5485)
DM	2.3625	(2.3579)
FF	7.9901	(7.9772)
SP	1.3038	(1.3028)
Yen	168.56	(168.43)
£ Index	85.9	(85.9)

Tokyo close Yen 108.41

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep)	£18.55	(£18.15)
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GOLD

London close	£382.88	(£383.65)
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* denotes midday trading price

Expectations

BFB, the plasterboard manufacturer, is expecting a recovery in margins after a year in which rising waste paper prices and the bad weather kept the lid on profits growth. Underlying profits at the building materials group were flat at £168 million.

Page 26, Tempus 28

Delay

The Ministry of Defence has been asked to delay the decision on a £2 billion replacement for the RAF's ageing Nimrod patrol aircraft so that Lockheed Martin can prepare a cheaper and more comprehensive bid. Page 30

National Express plans derailed

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL EXPRESS'S ambition to build Britain's first nationwide integrated transport group was dealt a heavy blow yesterday when it was told by the Government to scrap five of its flagship long-distance coach routes.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said the company's takeover of the Midland Main Line (MML) rail franchise could lead to a "significant loss of competition" on its parallel coach routes. Acting on the advice of the Office of Fair Trading, Mr Lang said he would refer the takeover to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless National Express withdrew its direct coach services

between London and Derby, Leicester, Sheffield, Chesterfield and Nottingham.

Shares in the company, which also runs the Gatwick Express rail franchise, two regional airports and hundreds of local bus routes, tumbled 21p to 48p.

National Express said it would review the impact of the proposed undertakings before making its official response.

City analysts said the ruling was a setback but would have little long-term effect on the company's growth strategy. The five coach operations have a tiny turnover, compared with the £128 million revenues of MML, which is expected to be highly profitable.

Body Shop £12m stake sale

By JASON NISSE

THE garage owner who 20 years ago lent Anita and Gordon Roddick £4,000 to expand their burgeoning Body Shop business yesterday sold an eighth of the stake he ended up with in the company for £12.06 million.

Ian McGinn, who now spends much of his time sailing on his yacht, Louise II, named after his 18-year-old daughter, sold 6.7 million shares in Body Shop International to Aeon, the Japanese group, at 180p each.

Aeon, whose subsidiary Jusco is one of the largest shareholders in Laura Ashley, is also the head franchisee for Body Shop in Japan, controlling 80 outlets. A Body Shop spokeswoman said the company considered Aeon's investment as "very positive".



McGinn: enjoys sailing

The sale leaves Mr McGinn with 45.7 million shares, worth £81 million. He has told the Roddicks that he has no current intention of selling any more.

Mr McGinn was given a 50 per cent stake in the business by Anita Roddick when he lent

her the money to open a second Body Shop outlet. Aileen Vaillancourt, his now estranged wife, helped the Roddicks to manage their first shop in Brighton and encouraged them to open their first franchised Body Shop in Bognor Regis.

However Mrs Vaillancourt did not do as well as Mr McGinn. Last year she and her husband, Maurice, were reported to be facing a £39,521 claim from Barclays Bank over a Body Shop franchise they ran in Bournemouth.

In her autobiography, Mrs Roddick remembers Mrs Vaillancourt toasting the success of the first Body Shop with cheap Algerian wine.

Not surprisingly Mr McGinn no longer runs his garage in Littlehampton, having leased it out to concentrate on enjoying his good fortune.

Bonuses boost Blyth's pay past the £1m mark

By GEORGE SIVELL

LORD BLYTH of Rowington, chief executive and deputy chairman of Boots, broke the million-pound level last year as his total pay package rose from £898,000 to £1,175,000.

Lord Blyth's basic salary was £470,000 in the year to March 31 but he enjoyed a £580,000 payment from Boots's long-term bonus scheme for directors.

The long-term bonus scheme works by comparing the performance of Boots to a league drawn up from a peer group composed of Great Universal Stores, Kingfisher, Marks & Spencer, Reckitt & Colman, J Sainsbury, Sainsbury, Smith & Nephew, SmithKline Beecham, Tesco and WH Smith.

Directors get a bonus equal to 90 per cent of their annual salary if the company occupies any of the top three places in the league table. The percentage falls progressively to 65 per cent for fourth and 55 per cent for fifth, down to

25 per cent for occupying eighth place and zero if Boots falls to either ninth, tenth or eleventh place in the table.

Lord Blyth also received £105,000 under a short-term bonus scheme, which pays out if directors achieve certain budgetary targets during the financial year in question.

Boots, which recently took full control of Do It All, the do-it-yourself business, by buying the WH Smith stake for a nominal sum, also completed a near £300 million buy-back of shares yesterday. The company announced that it had bought 51.36 million of its own shares in the market at 580p each. The manoeuvre left the shares unchanged at 581p.

Lord Blyth still has 410,000 share options to exercise at prices from 399p up to 531p under the now defunct executive share option scheme.

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Lenders told by Bank to get tough with borrowers

By ROBERT MILLER AND SARAH JONES

PEN KENT, one of the Bank of England's most senior directors, last night called on lenders to be more vigilant in enforcing credit standards, as Bradford & Bingley, one of Britain's leading home loan providers, withdrew all its one-year mortgage discount packages.

John Wriglesworth, a director of Bradford & Bingley, said that the building society's decision was based on earlier concerns raised by Eddie George, the Bank's Governor. Mr Wriglesworth said: "The move to axe our one-year discounts has been taken in the interests of more prudent lending and to prevent our new mortgage customers from saddling themselves with the shock of higher rates after the short-term discount expires."

In a speech yesterday to a conference on credit standards, Mr Kent, an executive director of the Bank of England, reinforced the Governor's earlier warnings. He said: "In my view the

pricing of credit risk in the past has not been studied with sufficient rigour." Mr Kent outlined recurring themes that should help the corporate and personal lending market to avoid "some of the traps of the past". He said, for example, that there was a general lack of information for those who granted the credit and for those who then monitor the results.

The Governor's warning, coupled with Mr Kent's second shot across the bows, is likely to curtail what is seen in official circles as overly generous mortgage discounts and cash-back offers, some of which have been worth up to £9,000. In spite of the generally more optimistic figures coming out of the housing market, which point to a reasonably sustainable, if patchy, recovery, there are concerns that with too many mortgage providers chasing a finite amount of business risk-lending criteria will be loosened.

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CBI gives warning against tax cuts

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

TAX cuts could unbalance the economy, the Confederation of British Industry said last night in a clear warning against pre-election economic boosts.

The message came after one of Britain's key sectors, the engineering industry, said that growth is now slackening markedly to its slowest rate for more than two years.

Britain's business leaders are preparing their submissions to the pre-Budget process of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and industry will argue for continued economic stability in spite of the looming general election.

In advance of that, Adair Turner, the CBI's Director-General, gave a strong warning against tax cuts. Current levels of public borrowing were unlikely to give any scope for "significant" tax cuts, he said. He went further by suggesting that, in any case, the economy did not need them.

Speaking to business leaders in the South East, Mr Turner said there was likely to be little need to stimulate consumer spending with cuts in personal taxes, and there were dangers that large cuts could unbalance the economy.

He said: "Consumer expenditure has grown by 2.5 per cent over the last year, sales of household goods are picking up and the housing market is starting to stir. And looking forward we expect further acceleration, with robust consumer spending growth next year, even without any tax cuts."

The focus needed to remain on competitiveness, productivity and investment for long-term growth, avoiding any return to the "unsustainable" consumer boom of the past. He said: "Whatever the temptations of a pre-election year, we'll be urging the Chancellor to stick to his belief that good economics is good politics."

Engineering businesses said yesterday that, in the light of a clear slackening of growth in their industry, they would be pressing the Chancellor for policies to support sustainable growth, including new incentives for investment and training. The EEF engineering employers, in their latest Business Trends, said that, after two years of slow but sure growth in the industry, engineering growth was now markedly slackening.

In a survey of almost 1,800 engineering companies, seasonally adjusted total output fell back from a net balance of 21 per cent of firms seeing output rising in the first three months of this year to only 6 per cent now — by far the slowest rate of growth for nine quarters.

Output actually fell in two key engineering regions, the West Midlands and the North West, leading the EEF to suggest that output nationally in the industry overall may well be negative in the coming quarter. Graham Mackenzie, EEF director-general, acknowledged the fallback but said engineering companies were suggesting that "the slackening in growth is no more than a pause".

Court case setback for Butte

By Jason Nishe

BUTTE Mining, which sold its last operating company three years ago, yesterday received a setback when the High Court threw out an action against Ernst & Young, the accountant, for £110 million. The news led to Butte's shares being suspended at just 1.5p.

David Lloyd-Jacob, Butte's chairman, said it would appeal against the ruling by Mr Justice Lightman and expects the appeal to be heard next year, along with a smaller related case Butte is pursuing against the firm.

Ernst & Young is claiming more than £1 million in unpaid fees from Butte. The actions all relate to the flotation of Butte in 1987 and the purchase of three businesses at which deficiencies later surfaced. Butte called in the SFO, which has charged four people with fraud. Pennington, page 27



Profit fears: Sir Denys Henderson, chairman, right, and Andrew Teare, chief executive

BT to create 1,000 jobs at Warrington centre

By Eric Reguly

BRITISH TELECOM is to create 1,000 jobs at a new service centre in the north of England, one of its single biggest employment gains in recent years.

The centre, in Warrington, Cheshire, will open in January and will specialise in telemarketing. BT products, from calling cards to discount packages, will be offered to customers over the phone. A

BT spokesman said: "Telemarketing is the single biggest sales channel we have."

The Warrington site will make BT one of the region's three biggest employers. It will require an investment of less than £10 million.

BT's overall employment is still declining, but at a much slower rate than in the early 1990s. The number peaked at 247,000 in 1989, and has since

fallen to about 131,000.

□ New BT customers will no longer be required to leave cash deposits of £30 to £100 before a residential service can be started. Instead, BT and the customer will agree to individual spending ceilings for call charges. "It will avoid the nasty surprise of unexpectedly high phone bills," said Ian Morfett, BT director of network services.

Turnover at Rank's cafés increased just 2 per cent, but the company will open three new Hard Rock Cafés in the second half, after the £270 million purchase of the rest of the franchise earlier this month.

Rank sees shares slip after warning

By Alasdair Murray

SHARES in Rank Organisation slumped 33p to 498p yesterday after the company said that profits in some key divisions had suffered in the first part of the year.

The City was especially worried by a 11 per cent fall in profits at Rank Xerox, the photocopier business, which Rank blamed on restructuring costs. There was also concern over profits in the film and television division, the company's second-biggest earner, which Rank said had fallen because of a decline in video prices.

Some analysts downgraded their profit forecasts after the trading statement, which covered the first five months of the year, but others pointed to the fact that Rank is always weak early in the year.

Andrew Teare, chief executive, said that details of a full strategic review would be unveiled in August. Analysts are expecting a series of disposals to help to fund the recent £270 million Hard Rock Café buyout.

Mr Teare described the overall picture as satisfactory. Turnover had increased and profits were boosted by a £15 million one-off recovery of R&D costs in its precision industries division. Mr Teare added that he saw some signs of an improvement in consumer spending.

Sales in the leisure division increased but with lower margins. Profits were flat at Universal Studios Florida because of increased costs associated with the launch of new attractions. Bingo admissions continued to fall after a closure programme but there was an improvement in consumer spending.

Turnover at Rank's cafés increased just 2 per cent, but the company will open three new Hard Rock Cafés in the second half, after the £270 million purchase of the rest of the franchise earlier this month.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Financial services regulators get tough

FINANCIAL services regulators are determined to see results from the review of personal pensions mis-selling, Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, said yesterday. Introducing the SIB's annual report, he described the review of past personal pensions business as "a complex programme of work on an unprecedented scale". There had been some progress, he said, "but the blunt truth is that we are not as close to a satisfactory outcome as we would have wished".

Sir Andrew added: "We and our fellow regulators have been working, and are continuing to work hard, with the wide range of parties involved to move things on. We are determined to see results. Where a firm fails to show the necessary willingness and competence to see the review through, we will expect regulators to bring disciplinary powers to bear."

Pan Am takes flight

PAN AMERICAN World Airways is to begin service between now and September from JFK Airport in New York to three US cities considered gateways to foreign destinations. The Miami airline acquired the logo from the now defunct US carrier of the same name for \$1.5 million in 1993. The original Pan Am, the first US airline, folded in 1991 after 64 years in the air. The new company also yesterday put the finishing touches on a marketing alliance with eight small and mid-sized international carriers.

Fyffes beats winter

COLD winter weather failed to chill profits at Fyffes, the fresh produce group. Interim pre-tax profits rose 16.8 per cent to £120.8 million. Sales rose 12 per cent to £1,500.1 million. Despite the poor weather in Europe, "our broad spread of fresh produce, the wide range of geographic markets in which we operate and our acquisitions have enabled us to continue our growth," said Neil McCann, chairman. The interim dividend is up by 10 per cent to £0.519p. The shares were unchanged at 107p.

EU concern over 'bug'

MARTIN BANGEMANN, the EU Industry Commissioner, will consult business and government experts about a computer programming bug that could cause havoc at the turn of the century. Herr Bangemann said he would investigate a problem that Ian Taylor, Britain's Science and Technology Minister, called a "millennium time bomb". The threat evolved because programmes use a two-digit format to show the year, making 1996 simply 96. At the turn of the century, computers will not recognise 00 or will treat it as 1900.

Ford to cut production

FORD is to halt production at its biggest UK plant on 13 separate days later in the year because of a declining export market for Fiesta vans. Workers at the Dagenham factory in Essex will only build cars and vans for four days a week when they return from the summer shutdown in August. Ford said the 5,000 workers at the body and assembly factories will still be paid full basic wages. The company said the slowdown was because of a declining market in southern Europe for the commercial version of the Fiesta.

Ideal Hardware falls 20p

SHARES in Ideal Hardware fell 20p to 603p yesterday, even though the data storage company reported a 28 per cent advance in pre-tax profits, to £7.8 million, for the year to May 3. Earnings rose 26 per cent, to 24.7p a share. A final dividend of 6.6p lifts the total 25 per cent, to 10.8p. Turnover rose 35 per cent to £138 million. The company announced the acquisition of PTL, which manufactures data storage enclosures, for a maximum consideration in excess of £3 million, and Kinexus, which produces Ideal's IT network broadcasts, for £300,000.

UK oil output ahead

UK OIL production increased slightly last month, reversing a six-month decline, according to figures released today. The increase was unexpected, since falls in production are normal in May as seasonal demand for oil declines and offshore operations begin summer maintenance schedules, said the Royal Bank of Scotland Oil and Gas Index. Oil production rose 0.2 per cent compared with April, to 2.44 million barrels per day, and also showed an increase on an annual basis of 1.5 per cent.

Lloyds bids verdict due

THE battle for Lloyds Chemists could shortly reignite. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is due to present its report into rival bids from UniChem, of Britain, and Gehe, of Germany, to the Department of Trade and Industry today for Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to deliver his verdict. The bids were referred in March because of concerns in UK pharmaceutical markets. UniChem owns 9.9 per cent of Lloyds, acquired in a dawn raid, while Gehe's offer is worth 500p a share. Lloyds' shares were unchanged at 484p yesterday.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Bank	Buy	Bank	Buy
Australia \$	2.05	Malta	0.800	Bank	0.545
Austria Sch	17.55	Netherlands Gld	2.780	Bank	2.585
Belgium F	47.35	New Zealand \$	2.41	Bank	2.585
Canada \$	2.04	Portugal Esc	10.50	Bank	2.585
Cyprus Cyp	0.757	S Africa R	252.50	Bank	2.585
Denmark Kr	9.48	S Korea W	7.28	Bank	2.585
Finland Mk	7.21	Spain Pta	204.50	Bank	2.585
France F	6.56	Sweden Kr	10.81	Bank	2.585
Germany DM	2.51	Switzerland Fr	2.07	Bank	2.585
Greece Dr	362	Turkey Lira	130021	Bank	2.585
Hong Kong \$	12.57	USA \$	1.238	Bank	2.585
India Ru	1.12			Bank	2.585
Israel Shk	5.33			Bank	2.585
Italy Lira	2071			Bank	2.585
Japan Yen	162.70			Bank	2.585

Notes for small denomination bank notes from Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Wickes investigates discrepancies

AN INVESTIGATION into accounting discrepancies at Wickes, the DIY retailer, was launched yesterday after the departure of Henry Sweetbaum, chairman and chief executive (see Stewart writes). Mr Sweetbaum, who has run

Wickes since 1982, was one of the UK's highest-paid retail chiefs. His salary package last year topped £1.2 million, including a bonus of £90,000. Linklaters and Paine, the solicitors, and Price Waterhouse are examining Wickes's

accounts and its financial condition. The move was instigated by Stuart Stradling, finance director, who says he will resign from the board once the report is completed. The initial findings are expected to be made available

next week. Wickes's shares remain suspended at 67p and the group is keen to clarify its position and resume trading. Wickes will not now pay its final dividend.

Pennington, page 27

GROUPE PARIBAS

Public tender offer of Groupe Paribas for Compagnie Financière Ottomane

Groupe Paribas confirms its public tender offer for all of the shares and founders' shares in Compagnie Financière Ottomane (CFO), following completion of the sale by CFO of its 100% stake in Osmanli Bankasi to the Turkish group, Garanti Bankasi.

The tender offer will be carried out through a guaranteed price procedure, starting on 8 July 1996 and ending on 2 August 1996 inclusive. The price offered will be FRF 350 per ordinary share, FRF 402,660 per founder's share, and FRF 40,266 per 10th of a founder's share.

A prospectus to which an acceptance form will be attached, as well as a copy of a fairness opinion, will be available to all shareholders.

The goal of this public tender offer is to give holders of CFO shares and founders' shares the possibility of receiving the equivalent of the company's liquidities. It is the natural conclusion to several years' effort by Compagnie Financière Ottomane and Groupe Paribas to maximize the CFO's shareholders value.

Prior to the offer, Groupe Paribas holds 49.9% of CFO. Ordinary shares in CFO are listed on the Luxembourg, London and Paris stock exchanges.

COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE OTTOMANE

Compagnie Financière Ottomane announces that the purchase of its affiliate Osmanli Bankasi by the Turkish group Garanti Bankasi, agreed on 1st April 1996 for a price of \$ 245 million, has been completed on 25th June 1996. No adjustment was made to the price after due diligence by the purchaser.

Following the sale, the value of Compagnie Financière Ottomane, on a liquidation basis, is estimated to be FRF 1,940 million as at 31st of May.

New law fuels talk of Mirror Group selling The People

By Eric Reguly and Alexandra Freen

THE final reading of the Broadcasting Bill in the Commons next week has prompted speculation that the Mirror Group will shed The People to cut the company's circulation so it can buy an ITV company.

The Bill will bar newspaper groups with more than 20 per cent of national circulation from taking control of a terrestrial television company. According to government figures, Mirror Group, whose titles include the Daily Mirror and the Sunday Mirror, has about 23 per cent of the national newspaper market.

Selling The People, a Sunday paper with circulation of just over two million, would cut Mirror Group's market share to about 20 per cent.

Mirror Group owns Live TV, the loss-making cable entertainment channel, and 20 per cent of Scottish Television and has made no secret of its desire to control a profitable

terrestrial television company. It has been highly critical of restrictions placed on it by the Broadcasting Bill, due to be passed this summer.

Liberty Publishing, the company formed by the Fayed family, owners of Harrods, to diversify into print and electronic media, is one potential buyer of The People. Liberty is reviving Punch magazine, has bought the ailing Viva radio station in London and has tried to buy The Observer from Guardian Media Group. Liberty was not available for comment. Mirror Group said Liberty had made no approach. There has also been speculation that a new owner of The People might buy the Daily Star from United News & Media to form a seven-day operation.

Charles Wilson, Mirror Group deputy managing director, said: "There is absolutely no intention in our minds at the moment to sell anything."

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□ Unravelling the mess at Wickes □ Carlsberg-Tetley deal still some way off □ National Express hits the buffers

Fat cat that got the cream

□ WHO is the highest paid chairman in non-food retailing? The answer is not the head of one of the huge high street multiples but Henry Sweetbaum at Wickes, the DIY chain. Or at least it was until Wednesday night.

Mr Sweetbaum's departure, coinciding almost to the minute with a better-publicised exit at Wembley, came once his position had been made untenable by news that large chunks of Wickes' profits were illusory. Mr Sweetbaum took home £1.2 million last year, although his actual salary was a more modest £296,000.

The difference came from benefits and, to the tune of £890,000, from bonuses and an incentive scheme. Some of those payments, quite clearly, must relate to profits that did not actually exist or the share price performance as influenced by such profits.

The profits overstatement came from taking onto the books rebates or other incentives from suppliers too early. Just how this happened, no one can say. It has no effect on the company's cash or viability at the trading level, and there is no evidence Mr Sweetbaum knew of it. What it does is bring forward some of next year's profits into this year.

Unclear, at this stage, is how much of earlier years' profits

were affected in the same way — and how these same illusory profits were then reflected in Mr Sweetbaum's pay and that of the rest of the board. A hit squad from Price Waterhouse went into Wickes yesterday, and some clue should be available next week.

Mr Sweetbaum may owe his former employer some money. How easy the amount would be to assess, whether he could be persuaded to repay it, and whether it would be worth while pursuing is a matter for another day. One difficulty is that while the bonus element is clearly related to profits and can presumably be recalculated, the incentive scheme is linked to the share price.

But wait. Mr Sweetbaum is reserving his right to compensation for his departure. A sum of £1.25 million, it is whispered, might be due. This would have to be based on last year's pay, and it therefore follows as night follows day that it would be based on some of those profits that were not really there.

This looks like a defining moment in the whole remuneration debate. It is quite unaccept-

able that Mr Sweetbaum should receive a penny out of shareholders' funds until it is clear exactly how much he is entitled to. The finance director of Wickes, Stuart Stradling, who initially blew the whistle, has indicated, honourably, that he will resign once the whole mess is cleared up, and without compensation.

The remaining directors should refuse Mr Sweetbaum, who was chairman and chief executive, note, a penny until Price Waterhouse can say unequivocally how much he is owed or whether he owes the company. Then the negotiating should start in earnest.

Probably one for the silly season

□ THE summer silly season is almost upon us, and the financial pages' equivalent of the Loch Ness monster or corn circles, spotting the deal that will settle the fate of the Allied Domecq-Carlsberg joint brewing venture, is abroad again.

When the beast was last loose, the focus of the convoluted plot

PENNINGTON



was Bass's attempts to ensure a purchase cleared the regulatory authorities. The fear was that Bass might be blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission as the purchase of Carlsberg-Tetley would leave the company with around 40 per cent of the total UK beer market.

Such worries now appear to have been exaggerated. The regulatory authorities look willing to accept the deal with a minimal amount of tweaking. Bass has offered to sell a couple of hundred pubs from its tied estate, mainly in some areas in the Midlands and the North, where it would have a virtual monopoly after the purchase. This is hardly onerous and would barely affect profits.

Bass's real problems lie with Carlsberg, the final member of the less than cosy trio. While Allied Domecq has been only too keen to sell its stake, its Danish partner remains reluctant. The company is heavily reliant on sales in the UK and would be loath to lose the link with tied pubs that the Carlsberg-Tetley venture was set up to provide.

Carlsberg would also feel aggrieved if it were forced out of the venture because under the original terms of the deal the company bore a large part of the investment in return for guarantees that its beers would be part sold to a tied market. The deal was structured this way because Allied was then committed to brewing.

There are a number of solutions. Carlsberg could take a 10 to 15 per cent stake in Bass, or simply in Bass's brewing operations, which would provide some kind of protection. Equally, the Danish brewer could negotiate a long-term licensing agreement, of the kind that Heineken currently holds with Whitbread, to ensure it receives the necessary guarantees. But none of these

solutions can be regarded as straightforward. The Carlsberg-Tetley story still has another few episodes to run.

Derailment on the Midland Line

□ THERE were some angry commuters struggling to work in the capital yesterday, but few were quite as angry as the executives who run one of the most lucrative railways out of it. National Express was accusing the Department of Trade and Industry both of stitching the company up and of not warning them about it first.

Given the abrupt and unnecessary share price plunge, a warning beforehand might have placed unbearable temptation in the way of National Express directors to phone their stockbrokers. As to whether the DTI acted unfairly, the company was convinced it was edging towards a cosy little deal before yesterday's derailment, but that was not the case. That's business.

The financial damage to National Express of withdrawing

from a few coach routes, as required by the DTI, is minimal. The company says other operators may not come in to plug the gap, as the DTI expects, so requiring the grannies and students who rely on its coaches to make a more expensive journey by rail — all paying their fares to National Express.

This is unlikely. A profitable route like that is going to attract takers. More to the point is the convenience to passengers in having the sort of regional rail and coach monopolies that are inevitably emerging out of rail privatisation, because of the scope for integrating timetables and fare structures. Such monopolies will inevitably require tough regulation, but this is a better option than tying their hands at the start and then allowing the free market to rule.

Butte-y contest

□ STRANGE creature, Butte Mining. Known to insiders as "plucky little Butte", it ceased mining for anything years ago and is now an option money play on the vagaries of courts and lawyers. The trick for investors is to buy on the defeats and sell out as anticipation of a victory rises. The next twist looks like a reverse takeover, to allow the company some proper earnings to fund the court battles.

BPB aims to recover lost margins

By CARL MORTISHED

BPB, the plasterboard manufacturer, is expecting a recovery in margins after a year in which rising waste paper prices and the bad weather kept the lid on profits growth.

Underlying profits at the building materials group were flat at £168 million, in spite of a 7.5 per cent rise in turnover to £1.43 billion as the company attempted to recover lost margin with price rises.

Jean-Pierre Cuny, BPB's chief executive, said that he hoped to be able to introduce another price rise in the autumn. "If volumes hold we are

going to restore margins," he said. BPB introduced a plasterboard price increase earlier than usual in an effort to claw back some of the margin lost because of the escalating price of waste paper, a raw material that is used in plasterboard.

However, lack of growth in volumes owing to the harsh winter, which delayed construction starts, led to price erosion.

Overall, plasterboard prices rose by between 2 and 3 per cent during the year with no improvement in the difficult German market, and the return on sales from building products declined from 12.9 per cent to 12.1 per cent.

Mr Cuny said that current volumes were up about 5 per cent on the previous year, although the outlook was uncertain. But he added that higher plasterboard demand in developing markets would supplement the recovery in housing activity in BPB's main markets. BPB is increasing the dividend by 8 per cent — to 9.7p — for the year, in spite of a 1.5p fall in earnings per share, to 20.5p.

Tempus, page 28



Cuny: early price rise likely

Robert Fleming falls £40m

By ROBERT MILLER

ROBERT FLEMING, one of the City's largest private merchant banks, suffered a near-£40 million fall in annual profits to £133.5 million.

John Manser, group chief executive, said the drop was principally because of a £30 million decline in the contribution from Jardine Fleming and a £10 million exceptional item connected with the closure of the direct sales force at Save & Prosper, the group's retail unit trust arm.

Despite the fall, at least one of Fleming's senior executives earned in excess of £1 million in the year to March 31. The most highly rewarded are understood to include Bill Harrison, the former head of global investment banking who is to join BZW. His role has been divided between Bernard Taylor and Roddy Fleming.

Funds under management at Flemings, which raised its annual dividend to 22p a share against 20p last time, rose 28 per cent to a record £60 billion.

Telekom tie-up hope for Energis

By ERIC REGULY

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM, the monopoly phone company that is to be privatised by the German Government in the autumn, has emerged as a possible partner for Energis, the telecommunications carrier owned by the National Grid.

The Grid has been looking for a strategic partner or equity investor for Energis for some time. Deutsche Telekom, which wants to develop a large telecoms business in Britain, is among the suitors. AT&T, America's largest long-distance phone company, is also thought to be interested. AT&T proposed a partnership with Energis two years ago, but some of the Grid's owners, the 12 regional electricity companies, rejected the offer.

Energis needs a partner or equity investor to reverse its fortunes. Revenues climbed almost ten-fold in the past financial year, to £42 million, but the company reported an operating loss of £73 million.

KW 'breached rules'

By ROBERT MILLER

KNIGHT WILLIAMS, the retirement income specialist that is in liquidation, was yesterday accused of widespread breaches of City rules, including the mis-selling of its investments to elderly investors by a leading City law firm.

A report prepared by Dobb Lupton, Broomhead, the law firm acting for free on behalf of investors of the KW investors action group, alleged that KW consultants made promises that could not be fulfilled and

did not explain the nature of the investments they sold. Nor, says the report, did KW consultants ascertain investors' attitudes to risk. Dobb Lupton yesterday called on the Investors Compensation Scheme to declare KW "in default", which would trigger payouts to investors. A Treasury letter to a KW adviser this week, said Angela Knight, Treasury minister, was concerned about the time the case was taking to progress.



"Will a 14-year-old

sociopath

bring my company
to its knees?"

SECURE

It can keep you up at night, the thought of some pubescent hacker or, worse, a paid professional, creeping through your company's most valuable information. But if you keep your network sealed tight to avoid the Information Superhighwaymen, you'll miss out on all the opportunities the Internet has to offer.

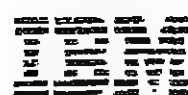
At IBM, some of our smartest people are working on the problem of information security. One group consists of "ethical hackers" who try to break into your system and reveal the chinks in your armour.

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Security Teams are standing by around the clock to detect it, contain it and stop it from happening again.

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Solutions for a small planet

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Boots spends £300m to buy back 5.3% stake

BOOTS, the chemist, has splashed out almost £300 million of hard-earned cash buying back its own shares to enhance shareholder value.

NatWest Securities, the company's broker, waded into the market-place with the instruction to pick up a total of 51.36 million shares, or 5.3 per cent, at 580p each.

The share buyback had been completed by the close of business, with a total of 101.8 million shares changing hands. It stretches the amount spent by Boots on buying back its own shares during the past couple of years to £808 million.

During a similar exercise in November 1994, the group spent £508 million buying 96.1 million, or 9.2 per cent, of its own shares for cancellation. This latest buyback will have made a large dent in its cash resources, which at the last count stood at £640 million.

Earlier this month, Boots took on the entire loss-making business of Do It All, allowing W H Smith, its partner in the venture, to bail out after making substantial provisions. Boots closed last night 1p easier at 580p compared with its high for the year of 646p. The move by Boots focused attention on Great Universal Stores, where talk of a share buyback has been doing the rounds for some time. At the last count the group was sitting on funds of £1.3 billion. The shares rose 6p to 653p.

It was not just the tube and postal workers on strike yesterday: investors were also staging their own withdrawal of labour, leaving the equity market to fend for itself. Share prices were marked lower from the outset, although they closed above their lowest levels despite an opening fall of more than 30 points in the Dow Jones industrial average.

The FT-SE 100 index wiped out the previous day's gains to close 16.7 points down at 3,678.8, with turnover of 766.8 million shares bolstered by that Boots buyback.

A combination of strong US buying and revived bid speculation lifted Zeebra 20p to £14.15, although in New York the price was trading a full 20p higher. In London, there was a revival of suggestions that a bid may soon be on the way, prompted by one investor giving the call for 200 contracts in the October 1500 series. This would indicate that the share price is expected



Boots dipped 1p as 102 million shares changed hands

to go sharply better over the next few months.

Full-year figures from Asda, Britain's fourth largest supermarket chain, lived up to expectations, with pre-tax profits growing from £252 million to £304.6 million. The group dismissed suggestions that it might follow the lead of rivals Tesco and J Sainsbury by introducing a loyalty card

Reed International, the publishing group, was left licking its wounds last night after a visit to the company by institutional shareholders. They were clearly not impressed with what the company had to say. The shares finished 25p lower at £10.67 as 1.7 million changed hands.

In all its stores. Instead, it intends to concentrate on lower prices for its customers. The shares finished 4p lower, at 114p, with some brokers urging clients to switch to rival Argill, owner of the Safeway supermarket chain, up 5p to 345p.

Worries about a slowdown in growth left Securicor 28p lower at 245p. First-half figures showed the contribution

from Cellnet, the mobile telephone network owned jointly with BT, rising by only 7 per cent. This, combined with £4 million of provisions, left profits virtually static. Cellnet's disappointing performance also hit Orange, its rival, 7p down at 223p.

Rank Organisation was marked lower first thing following its latest trading state-

ment. Andrew Teare, the new chief executive, said that turnover was up 6 per cent, but that profits in certain areas were being held back. The update failed to impress the City and this was reflected in the price, which finished 33p lower at 488p.

Brokers are looking for pre-tax profits of around £450 million for the full year. They take the view that turnover

may be up, but margins remain under pressure.

News of a disposal, capital reconstruction and increased losses left Cardinal Business Group, the office equipment and parcel delivery specialist, nursing a fall of 6p at 26p. Pre-tax losses grew from £1.2 million to £1.9 million after being hit by charges of £336,000 relating to last year's failed bid for Southern Business Group and the cost of re-constructing the business.

Cardinal is proposing selling its office products division to Alco Standard for £6.3 million. The deal needs shareholder approval. Alan Baldwin, chairman, said the proceeds would be used to pay off debts.

BPB Industries, the plasterboard manufacturer, managed a rise of 3p to 308p despite confirmation of a small profits downturn last year. The group was confident about current prospects, with trading at its building materials division up to budget.

A stock overhang left Amec, the construction group, nursing a fall of 12p to 96p. First-time dealings in Whitbread of Chelsea, the tea and coffee merchant, got off to a flying start on the Alternative Investment Market following a placing of six million shares at 148p. The price opened at 158p and touched a peak of 163p before closing at 158p, a premium of 10p. At these levels the group carries a price-earnings ratio of 25.

GILT-EDGED: Prices ended lower on the day, reflecting similar falls among German bonds after the Bundesbank pegged the Repo rate. The Bank of England also announced that two of the auctions during the next quarter will be pitched at the longer end. Dealers said that was likely to be bad news for longer-dated issues and would probably result in a further steepening of the yield curve.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt fell 1/8 to 105 1/8 in thin trading that saw only 27,000 contracts completed. In long Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost 1/8 to 157 1/8, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was five ticks off at 102 1/8.

NEW YORK: Continuing concern over interest rates and corporate earnings saw shares mixed on Wall Street and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 26.23 points lower at 5,656.47.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (today):
Dow Jones 5656.47 (-26.23)
S&P Composite 662.90 (-1.49)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 22501.61 (-165.19)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11022.45 (-57.47)

Amsterdam:
Euro Index 356.48 (-3.01)

Sydney:
AO 2741.6 (-11.18)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2551.42 (-22.07)

Singapore:
Straits 2281.36 (-3.40)

Brussels:
General 9667.70 (-6.47)

Paris:
CAC-40 2112.85 (-0.43)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 800.50 (-3.09)

London:
FT 30 2714.1 (-6.68)

FT 100 3078.8 (-14.7)

FT-SE Mid 250 4340.9 (-24.4)

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TEMPUS

Asda's pick and mix

FANS of Archie Norman, the chief executive of Asda, believe that he walks on water. In another industry, his achievements — organic growth last year of 12.1 per cent and pre-tax profits up 24 per cent — would look highly respectable but not miraculous. However, in the food retailing industry, so dependent on gimmicks, Asda's spark and swagger goes a long way.

Asda clearly has its fans in the high street as well. Who needs loyalty cards when you can boost customer numbers 10 per cent annually? And there is the promise of more to come. Asda is in year two of its three-year Breakout programme, the object of which, says Mr Norman, rather opaquely, "is to create a business which is different in an industry characterised by sameness".

Having achieved so much, the question

now is how much more can be delivered. At its core, Asda's strategy is hardly novel: sacrificing margin on core food products in order to generate volume and footfall through the stores. But permanent low prices carry a price and Asda must keep up the rate of expansion if profits growth is not to suffer.

In the short to medium term, the company gets probably help from the sunbathing efforts of some other food retailers. There is little doubt that the food retailing sector is approaching saturation and Asda correctly sees the future in making Asda distinct — hence the focus on clothes and OTC drugs. But a pick and mix approach to retailing smacks more of opportunism than strategy. If Asda shows any genuine sign of wanting to take on Marks and Spencer, the time will come to sell.

BPB

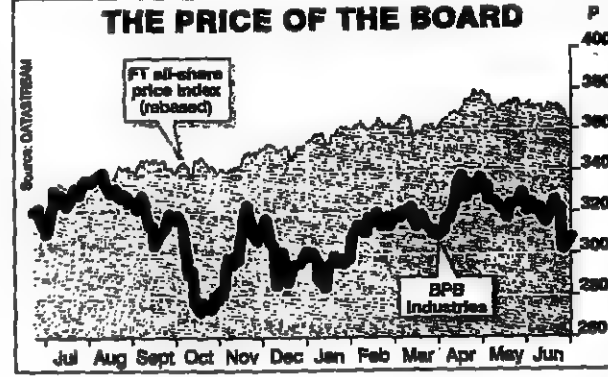
BPB tells a very bullish story about plasterboard, the wonder building product, that will soon wall up Europe from the Atlantic to Poland. Consumption per head is so low, a third the level in the United States and BPB has a half share of the European market. In a fair world, BPB would be counting it.

Unfortunately, BPB never seems to have an accident-free year. Part of the problem is the unstable price of the product. The plasterboard producing oligopoly, comprising BPB, Lafarge and Knauf, have an annoying habit of attacking each other in the core market, Germany, when demand gets out of kilter with supply.

Last year, waste paper prices soared just as the European construction industry was heading into

decline. Producers dumped product in Germany but the German building industry is slowing down and was unable to absorb the surplus. Curiously, BPB is building a huge plant near Berlin capable of producing 53 million square metres of board and reckons proximity to the core market will give it an edge. At the same time, it is

shutting down older plant. Greater efficiency, an easing of cost pressures and small price increases should help BPB to retrieve its lost margin. But what are really needed to realise promise are more building sites in Europe. There are signs of activity and for anyone betting on a construction revival BPB is a reasonable punt.



Boots

BOOTS yesterday thumbed its nose at a grudging share market, offering to buy back £300 million of stock. The exercise still leaves Boots with some £340 million in the kitty. With huge cash surpluses generated every year, there is every reason to believe that such periodic buy-ins will become a feature of the company.

The retailer's ample cash flow is not for want of investment: Boots spends some £220 million on its businesses in a normal year but can generate plenty of free cash even after paying interest, dividends, tax and normal investment.

That is not enough for this share market, which is chasing a different kind of retailer. Hence the outperformance of big-ticket consumer stocks such as Dixons and fashion retailers such as Next. The hope is that more confident consumers will begin to pile up a little credit

card debt buying luxuries. That suggests sales growth at retailers of everyday essentials, such as Boots the Chemists, will lag the performance of purveyors of brown and white goods and fashion items.

Boots rating, stuck on a prospective multiple of 15.5 times compared with a sector average of 17, reflects the view that the stock will be a dull performer but investors should begin to question how long this consumer boom will last. The next government is likely to raise interest rates, in which case the market will soon be scrambling back to safe and solid performers, such as Boots.

That is almost part of the problem as some cynics point to the majority stake held by insiders at the company and worry that any surge in the price will lead to a trickle of selling. That is also absurd as the management are unlikely to be tempted to sell at such low levels. The company earns only 13 per cent of its profits from broking and having more than doubled group profits over five years, Man deserves a break.

ED&F Man

THESE days, only the very brave or very foolish speak up in support of commodity brokers. For ED&F Man, however, the barrelling has been going on for almost two years. Floated in September

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
COCOA			
Jul	1024-1026	Aug	1026-1028
Oct	1028-1030	Nov	1030-1032
Dec	1032-1034	Jan	1034-1036
Feb	1036-1038	Mar	1038-1040
Apr	1040-1042	May	1042-1044
Jun	1044-1046	Jul	1046-1048
Aug	1048-1050	Sep	1050-1052
Oct	1052-1054	Nov	1054-1056
Dec	1056-1058	Jan	1058-1060
Feb	1060-1062	Mar	1062-1064
Apr	1064-1066	May	1066-1068
Jun	1068-1070	Jul	1070-1072
Aug	1072-1074	Sep	1074-1076
Oct	1076-1078	Nov	1078-1080
Dec	1080-1082	Jan	1082-1084
Feb	1084-1086	Mar	1086-1088
Apr	1088-1090	May	1090-1092
Jun	1092-1094	Jul	1094-1096
Aug	1096-1098	Sep	1098-1100
Oct	1100-1102	Nov	1102-1104
Dec	1104-1106	Jan	1106-1108
Feb	1108-1110	Mar	1110-1112
Apr	1112-1114	May	1114-1116
Jun	1116-1118	Jul	1118-1120
Aug	1120-1122	Sep	1122-1124
Oct	1124-1126	Nov	1126-1128
Dec	1128-1130	Jan	1130-1132
Feb	1132-1134	Mar	1134-1136
Apr	1136-1138	May	1138-1140
Jun	1140-1142	Jul	1142-1144
Aug	1144-1146	Sep	1146-1148
Oct	1148-1150	Nov	1150-1152
Dec	1152-1154	Jan	1154-1156
Feb	1156-1158	Mar	1158-1160
Apr	1160-1162	May	1162-1164
Jun	1164-1166	Jul	1166-1168
Aug	1168-1170	Sep	1170-1172
Oct	1172-1174	Nov	1174-1176
Dec	1176-1178	Jan	

THE TIMES



Tarry has no time to wait

EUROTUNNEL was apologising again yesterday, after a Eurostar train taking shareholders, City analysts and journalists to its annual meeting in Paris broke down.

Henry Kissinger, former US Secretary of State, and composer Jean Michel Jarre, were among the frustrated travellers on board the hapless train that "ran out of electricity", coming to an abrupt halt an hour outside the French capital.

Ticket-holders were kept waiting for two hours at the side of the track, until two TGVs were sent to their rescue.

Eventually, the press arrived about three hours late at the Eurotunnel meeting.

Chris Tarry, a passenger and Kleinwort Benson transport analyst, certainly didn't live up to his name. The dedicated Mr Tarry was last seen scrambling over a wire fence in an effort to hail a taxi for the last leg of his nightmare journey.

BRUNO SCHRODER has his eye on a £2,500 statue on display at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. But he tells me the bronze is out of his reach — it has already been sold. The Schroders director picked out the "moderately" priced statue of an old man with a dog on his lap while rubbing shoulders with Sir Bob Reid, the chairman of London Electricity, Peter Ellwood, the deputy chief executive at Lloyds TSB, and Earl Limerick, the chairman of De La Rue, at a reception this week to celebrate the 70th birthday of AT Kearney, the management consultant.



"The mainline train now arriving at platform one may be referred to the MMC"

Victory muesli

THE Landmark Hotel was mollycoddling the German football team yesterday. After being served complimentary champagne, courtesy of the hotel's German general manager, the team were served a celebratory breakfast fit for a... er, supermodel. Forty-eight chefs were woken at 4am to prepare a "special" muesli made with yoghurt, hazelnuts, and oatmeal. What's more, the menu was printed on yellow cards.

Ideal blow

JAMES WICKES, chief executive of Ideal Hardware, the computer products distributor, made an unusual apology to his institutional shareholders at a presentation in London yesterday. After indulging in some sumo wrestling at the weekend, the unusually named Johann Konrad Zeno Maria Johann Goess-Saurau, a non-executive director and co-founder of Ideal, couldn't make it. He was at home recovering from concussion.

ASDA is making the most of the ever decreasing Yorkshire water. The supermarket will soon be selling bottles of the precious commodity from Yorkshire Water's rival Pennine spring in Huddersfield. Priced at 38p for a two-litre bottle, the label will carry the warning: "While stocks last".

MORAG PRESTON

Quasimodo celebrates being crowned 'king of fools' in a scene from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, the Disney studio's latest box-office success

Disney kingdom loses some of its once indelible magic

Richard Thomson on a rift running through an exalted Hollywood studio

Walt Disney, the world's biggest entertainment group, opened the door of the Magic Kingdom last weekend to let out another multi-million-dollar box-office hit. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, an animated version of the story by Victor Hugo, grossed more than \$20 million in its first three days. But its success disguises the fissures inside Disney and the question mark hanging over the future of Michael Ovitz, the chief executive.

What worries observers most is the apparently widening rift between the company's two most powerful moguls: Michael Eisner, the chairman, and his friend (some say former friend), Ovitz. The clouds have gathered above the chief executive with remarkable speed since his surprise appointment barely nine months ago. He has, say insiders, angered colleagues, made enemies of senior executives and failed to turn around ABC, Disney's expensive television acquisition. For his part, Ovitz has been reported as saying that he "regrets" joining Disney. How long, ask the gossips, before Ovitz is out?

This is an unexpected turn of affairs for Ovitz, who as head of the CAA talent agency was dubbed the most powerful man in Hollywood. It was assumed when he took the job at Disney that he was swapping autonomy to be Eisner's right-hand man, on the understanding that he was also Disney's heir apparent. That succession looks highly questionable now.

A measure of Disney's problems is that its share price has sunk by a humiliating 14 per cent since March. A big reason for this was the sudden collapse in the ratings of ABC, which Disney bought for \$19 million in February. That month it came third of the leading broadcasting networks and

its profits slipped badly. Ovitz is the man charged with turning this disaster around.

But so far he has had little effect on ABC's ratings, although he has alienated several key executives by bringing outsiders into senior positions. Several of the appointments made good sense, but the way that they were carried out — often without giving warning to existing Disney executives whose jobs would be affected — has caused bitterness.

This is typical of what some employ-

ees say is Ovitz's autocratic style. He tries to run Disney the way he ran CAA, unaware that in such a big corporation he does not wield the same authority and that treading on the toes of powerful subordinates tends to weaken his own position.

For example, Joe Roth, head of the film studio division, is one of the more powerful heads of Disney's several fiefdoms that Ovitz has upset recently. To mollify Roth, his powers were extended to cover TV as well, thus annoying executives in that area.



Michael Eisner, left, with Michael Ovitz at the studios in Burbank

Meanwhile, all is not well with the film division either — yet another area of Ovitz responsibility. Last week Roth announced that Disney would have to cut the films it produced from 40 to 20 a year, giving further evidence that the entertainment giant was having to radically rethink the way it works.

The other frequently voiced criticism of Ovitz is that he is a dealmaker with little patience for the bureaucratic style of a big corporation. He has his fingers in too many pies, doing too many things to be effective, say some Disney employees. For example, he is in charge of Disney's overseas operations, which he says he wants to boost from a third of the corporation's revenues to a half. One of his schemes is to open a theme park in China where he has travelled three times since taking up his new job. He is also responsible for Disney's budding interactive games division, its music division and is negotiating to buy a football team to play for Disney in Los Angeles.

If Ovitz does not prove his worth to Disney soon, his reign at the company may be short lived. His appointment would then look like a serious embarrassment for Eisner, who passed over Jeffrey Katzenberg for the top job even though Katzenberg had masterminded much of the company's current success, particularly on the film and animation side. A disgruntled Katzenberg left to join Steven Spielberg and David Geffen to set up the new DreamWorks studio. He is also suing Disney for \$250 million.

If it happens, Ovitz's departure would again leave open the question of succession to Eisner, whose health has been an issue since he needed heart surgery two years ago. It would also be a precipitous fall for Ovitz, whose power once made Hollywood's film moguls tremble.

Old-fashioned bank counts on new money

Jon Ashworth finds wealthy nerds are edging out the aristocrats at Coutts

Coutts & Co, banker to the Queen, bastion of frugal discretion, is embarking on a frightfully modern strategy. In a move that will set jewelled fingers trembling with horror, Coutts has decided to put the squeeze on its run-of-the-mill clients — those with only the odd thousand to spare — and focus on those with the occasional million. The wealthiest few are to be invited to combine all their services — tax advice, stockbroking, fund management — under one roof. Lack of ancestral home is no obstacle.

Coutts, founded in 1692, and banker to the royal family since the reign of George III, is now owned by NatWest, but has largely retained its autonomy. From Monday, the bank's private banking operations will be reorganised into 30 teams, each headed by a client relationship manager (a bank manager to anyone else), and handling 75-100 clients each. About 170 jobs will be lost, mostly in the back office, to pay for the increased emphasis on front-office service. A further 100-170 jobs could go next year. For an institution renowned for its tact and discretion, this is a radical departure.

Not since the saga of the headless ghost has anything like this swept the Coutts corridors. The spectre, reputed to be the Earl of Essex, beheaded by Queen Elizabeth I in 1601, caused a bit of stir three summers ago.

Today's millionaire is increasingly likely to be an anorak-clad computer nerd or champagne-swilling pop star, and Coutts, in common with its banking rivals, can ill-afford to be choosy. Its traditionally aristocratic clientele is preoccupied with events in Lime Street and elsewhere. Even the Queen, the most famous of Coutts customers, has been reduced to coping with income tax, and other indignities.

Coutts may no longer write out its customer accounts in quill pen — the practice was abandoned more than 30 years ago — but vestiges of a bygone age remain. Staff continue to wear frock coats, and golden carp cruise the ornamental pond in the foyer of the bank's headquarters. Clients are treated to "narrative statements", providing

full details of each cheque. Now, ever so subtly, Coutts is concentrating its resources on the money that counts. Herschel Post, chief executive of Coutts & Co, insists that those customers who only require a cheque book and overdraft will be welcome to stay. But it is the big account holders who are likely to attract attention. A spokesman says: "The idea is to offer a full range of financial services in one place."

Banking competitors are more pointed. "This sounds like the 20-80 principle," says one: "20 per cent of clients are 'fat cats'; 80 per cent they want 'out', but are too gentlemanly to say so. There's an element of asking the rich to point the finger at the poor."

Most high street banks are experimenting with electronic techniques, spanning personal computers, telephones and the Internet. NatWest is conducting trials in interactive TV banking. Coutts says it is alert to such trends, but adds: "Some still want old-fashioned attention to duty."

Coutts has attempted to shake up its image before.

In 1991, it wrote to clients: "We are giving great attention to reducing still further the number of customers looked after by each manager, and

his team." At least one rallied to the cause — by changing banks.

Two years ago, David Went, chief executive of Coutts Group, which embraces Coutts's worldwide operations, announced plans to take Coutts "upmarket" and make it "a proper private bank". Mr Went spoke of the need to focus on managing assets for wealthy individuals, as opposed to the more basic demands of retail banking. By the turn of the century, he speculated, customers might well require a minimum of £500,000 to qualify for Coutts's services.

One only hopes that Coutts has updated its books before summoning clients for that glass of dry sherry. A few years ago, the bank forwarded tax forms to a client, with the postscript: "I shall be grateful if you will kindly let me know the date of Sebastian's birth, since it is quite likely the inspector will want to know this." The client replied that there was unlikely to be a problem as Sebastian was a basset-hound.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Bus transport needs better standards, less regulation

From the Director Public Affairs, CPT

Sir, No, for heaven's sake, not another level of bureaucracy. Please not yet another industry regulator (Pennington, June 19).

Anyhow, why does the bus industry need a regulator? If he is to control fares and service frequencies, then you are proposing re-regulation root and branch.

And why the rail regulator? Because so many rail franchises are being awarded to bus groups? Buses and trains are not the same, you know.

and we already have plenty of regulators: the Department of Transport; Vehicle Inspectorate; the police; MMC-OFT; and most important, the Traffic Commissioners.

To ensure high standards and effective enforcement, two main things need to be done: streamline MMC-OFT (currently far too long-winded and long drawn-out) and reinforce the powers and responsibilities for the Traffic Commissioners and ensure that they are adequately resourced and funded.

By the way, the fall in

passenger numbers has not accelerated. In fact, we have managed a modest turnaround. Nationally, we achieved a 1 per cent increase in passenger journeys last year.

Enforcement of standards, improved standards — yes. Regulator — no. Yours faithfully, DAVID WATSON, Director Public Affairs, Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, Sardis House, 52 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A.

British Gas prepared for MMC

From the Deputy Chairman, British Gas

Sir, We were interested to read in your article ("TransCo controls delayed", June 26) that: "Mr Spottiswoode's apparent optimism (that an MMC reference could be avoided) could be borne of a... belief that British Gas is afraid of the MMC tabling more severe suggestions". If an MMC inquiry is necessary, then we are wholly confident in the case we would submit to that inquiry.

We were, however, interested to read that "Ofgas yesterday

said that the announcement would be made late next month as its economists needed extra time to consider the British Gas response". Ofgas's delay might be reviewed in the context of its latest reason (Utility Week, June 21) for not revealing for scrutiny the consultants' reports on which its proposals were based: "Ofgas says it is not making the information available because the gas giant would delay matters with line-by-line rebuttals".

Ofgas's delay clearly creates time to check these reports and our request to review them still stands. Yours faithfully, PHILIP C. ROGERSON, Deputy Chairman, British Gas, The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, WC2.

Mystical coincidence

From Bruce Jackson

Sir, Kenneth Clarke (Business, June 13) is shown smoking his cigar, the headline being "Clarke upbeat over economic prospects". In the books section of the same issue, Carl Jung is also shown smoking a cigar with the caption "Carl Jung: mystical voyager". Is one to draw any conclusion from this juxtaposition? Yours faithfully, BRUCE JACKSON, 23 Spring Meadows, Great Shefford, Hungerford, Berkshire.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Body Shop position is disappointment

From Anne Simpson

Sir, The Body Shop doth protest too much. Pirc does not "accuse". Rather we observe in our report to shareholders that the company does not comply with the Cadbury and Greenbury codes of best practice.

For a business seeking to set standards of excellence this is a disappointment.

We consider the company should come into line with best practice on corporate governance. Stuart Rose, the managing director, advises Pirc to check our facts. The facts are not in dispute. Cadbury states that three non-executive directors are the minimum acceptable

to provide adequate checks and balance on the board. Body Shop has two. Greenbury states clearly that executives should not sit on the remuneration committee. At Body Shop the chairman and the chief executive (the Roddicks) sit on the committee which establishes executive pay.

The Body Shop's excuse for not complying is their own

Low levels of interest rates are creating a new impoverished class

From Mr Stanley Lerner

Sir, When interest rates were a punitive 17 per cent in the early 1990s businessmen would have gone down on their knees for more modest levels, say, 10 per cent.

The Government has, over the past few years, reduced the rate to nearly half of that rate, and yet the "feel-good" factor is still not with the majority of the people. What will happen if the rate is reduced to zero, and there is still no major recovery?

The constant reductions in interest rates are now creating a new class of impoverished people, namely those who were thrifty and saved so as

not to be a burden on the state; they have seen their income plummet, their only hope being either to gamble on the stock market or win the lottery. Is it really the intention of the Government to create a

nation of gamblers and speculators? Yours faithfully, STANLEY LERNER, 37 Hove Park Way, Hove, East Sussex.

SFA tribunal 'has yet to hear' Barings case

From Mr Ronald A. Baker

Sir, It has been reported in your newspaper (June 27) and others that I have been banned for three years from working in the City by the Securities and Futures Authority. This is not correct. The SFA has preferred charges against me and has

suggested an SFA registration ban if those charges are found valid. I am currently contesting the charges and the SFA tribunal has yet to hear the case. Yours faithfully, RONALD A. BAKER, 66 Chancery Street, SW6.

DIRECT Savings

RATES OF INTEREST

Effective from 28th June 1996

	Gross % p.a.	Net equiv. % p.a.
Direct Premium Account		
Annual Interest		
£1,000 - £9,999	4.50	3.60
£10,000 - £24,999	4.65	3.96
£25,000 +	5.20	4.18
Monthly Income		
£10,000 - £24,999	4.80	3.84
£25,000 +	5.00	4.00
Direct Notice Account (No longer available to new investors)		
Annual Interest		
£1,000 - £9,999	4.85	3.88
£10,000 - £24,999	5.20	4.18
£25,000 +	5.45	4.36
Monthly Income		
£10,000 - £24,999	5.00	4.00
£25,000 +	5.25	4.20
Direct 60 Account		
Annual Interest		
£5,000 - £14,999	5.40	4.32
£15,000 - £24,999	5.85	4.68
£25,000 +	6.10	4.88
Monthly Income		
£15,000 - £24,999	5.85	4.68
£25,000 +	5.85	4.68
Direct 90 Account (No longer available to new investors)		
Annual Interest		
£15,000 - £24,999	6.00	4.80
£25,000 +	6.40	5.12
Monthly Income		
£15,000 - £24,999	5.80	4.64
£25,000 +	6.20	4.96
Direct Preference TESSA* (Closed to new investors)		
£3,001 - £8,999	8.25**	-
£9,000 +	8.75**	-

*Includes bonus of 0.5% gross p.a.

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Interest rates are variable and correct at time of going to press. Interest will be paid net of the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%) or subject to the required certification, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made for repayment of tax. Not equivalent to the rounded and are for illustrative purposes only. The Society's Ordinary Shares/Preference Shares rule for £1 will be payable on accounts being below minimum balance requirements for annual interest or monthly income.

Profits by Yates and Pelican to fuel expansion

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

TWO of Britain's fast-growing restaurant and wine bar chains announced a sharp rise in profits yesterday, and plans for further expansion.

Yates Brothers Wine Lodges, the drinks retailer, is looking to expand into the south of England. Since the year-end the company has opened a further four wine lodges, with another seven scheduled in the remainder of this year.

Yesterday, the company unveiled a 46 per cent rise in profits, to £7.5 million before tax. Turnover increased by 14 per cent, to £61.2 million.

The results were driven by a strong performance from the company's newly opened outlets, which helped to boost total retail operating profits by 30 per cent, to £8.7 million.

The wholesaling division performed less successfully, in spite of an improvement in the second half, and profits fell by a quarter to £144,000.

Capital expenditure more than doubled to £17.5 million and is expected to increase to £27 million this year. Gearing increased to 24 per cent and the company anticipates that it will increase to 50 per cent by the end of this year.

The total dividend was increased by 20 per cent, to 3.6p. A final dividend of 2.4p is payable on August 27. Shares in the company fell 3p, to close at 385p.

The Pelican Group, which owns and operates 100 restaurants, including the French Café Rouge and Dome chains, lifted profits to £7.5 million, from £4.1 million, in the year to March 31. Earnings were 7.5p a share (4.9p). The total dividend is increased to 2p, from 1.5p, with a 1.35p final. But the shares fell 11½p to 144p yesterday.

Roger Myers, chairman, said the expansion programme for the current year involved an opening almost every two weeks.



Peter Dickson, managing director of Yates Brothers Wine Lodges, which is seeking to expand in the South after a sharp rise in profits last year

Lockheed asks for time to make improved bid for RAF contract

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Ministry of Defence has been asked to delay a decision on a £2 billion replacement for the RAF's 25 ageing Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft to allow Lockheed Martin to prepare a cheaper and more comprehensive bid.

In a new proposal submitted to the MoD, Lockheed Martin has presented the option of a partnership with one of its rival bidders, the US company Loral, to sell the Orion aircraft to the RAF.

Lockheed Martin, teamed with GEC-Marconi, Hunting

Engineering and other UK companies, is offering a new aircraft, the Orion 2000, which, it claims, will have huge export potential. Britain would be the first customer for the new Orion, although the US Defence Department is expected to buy the aircraft at a later stage.

Sam Nunn, chairman of the US Senate Armed Services Committee, has written to Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, recommending the new Orion. He said there would be mutual benefits for

Britain and the US. However, an MoD committee recently recommended to ministers that they should choose a cheaper option, a refurbished Nimrod made by British Aerospace, with Boeing supplying the crucial mission systems. The contract is due to be decided next week.

The other option still on the table is for Loral, in partnership with Marshalls, the Cambridge aircraft developers, and Shorts Brothers of Belfast, to refurbish old American Orion F3s, currently stored in

an Arizona desert depot by the US defence department.

Lockheed Martin recently took over Loral, but the two rival bids have been kept apart by the usual "Chinese walls" system.

However, the Loral option is considered unlikely to win the RAF contract, and the new proposal delivered to the MoD is that Lockheed Martin and its new subsidiary, Loral, get together to offer a joint management scheme for the Orion 2000, with potential cost cuts arising from using the facilities at Marshalls and at other British firms involved in the refurbished Orion option. The existing Loral bid would remain open.

Lockheed Martin has also told the MoD that it will guarantee a 10 per cent stake for British companies in its bid for the American Joint Strike Fighter contract. Lockheed Martin is bidding against other American companies, such as Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, for the aircraft, which may also be bought by the Royal Navy.

ED & F Man raises payout

By ROBERT MILLER

SHAREHOLDERS in ED & F Man, the agricultural products to financial services group, were rewarded for their patience yesterday when the annual dividend, payable on September 3, was lifted by 5 per cent to 10.1p a share after the half-time payout had been pegged at last year's 3.2p.

Profits at ED & F Man, whose agricultural areas include the sugar, molasses and alcohol markets, were up 4 per cent to £81 million in the year to

March 31. The group said a strong second-half in the agricultural sector, both from cross-border trading and activities in processing, transportation, storage and local distribution had made significantly increased contributions to profits. Cocoa's contribution, however, was down on the previous year mainly because of reduced margins.

Molasses and alcohol together more than doubled last year's contribution to ED & F

Man at £11.2 million which helped to offset sharply lower contributions from nuts, spices and coffee at £600,000 (£4.3 million). Man International, the group's brokerage arm, lifted profits to £11.1 million (£10.2 million). Man Investments Products, the asset management business, made a £14.2 million profit, up £1 million. Earnings were 21.4p a share (20.2p).

Tempus, page 28

GEC joins Siemens in venture

By ERIC REGALY

GEC of Britain and Siemens of Germany yesterday agreed to form a joint venture to design and manufacture advanced private network communications systems for the global business market.

The systems are currently made by GPT, which is 60 per cent owned by GEC and 40 per cent by Siemens. The new joint venture, as yet unnamed, will take over GPT's private network equipment business, leaving GPT with the public network business. Siemens will contribute its business communications systems to the joint venture.

Jürgen Gehrels, chief executive of the British arm of Siemens, said GPT on its own did not have the clout to attack international markets. The joint venture, he said, would allow GEC and Siemens to compete more effectively with large players such as Northern Telecom.

Flat first half hurts Securicor's shares

By ERIC REGALY

HIGHER interest charges and slower growth at Cellnet, the mobile phone company, left Securicor, the security services and communications group, with flat interim profits and triggered a sharp decline in the share price of 28p to 245p.

Securicor, whose chief executive is Roger Wiggs and which owns 40 per cent of Cellnet,

said growth was constrained by price competition from rivals such as Vodafone and Orange, a levelling off of the number of new subscribers since Christmas and substantial investment spending in digital infrastructure. Cellnet is largely an analogue network and aims to shift its customers to the higher capacity and higher margin digital services. Its slower growth is bound to increase Securicor's desire to sell its stake.

Cellnet contributed £35.2 million in operating profit in the half year to March 31, up only £2.2 million from a year ago. Securicor's overall operating profit rose 14 per cent to £57.2 million on turnover of £47.6 million, up 5.1p a share. Interest charges more than doubled to £6.2 million.

The interim dividend, to be paid on September 30, rises 12 per cent to 0.354p.



Wiggs: raising dividend

Mazda president is given a bumpy ride

FROM ROBERT WHYMENT IN TOKYO

HENRY WALLACE was given a bumpy ride yesterday when he met shareholders at his first day as president of Mazda Motor Corp. The annual shareholders' meeting in Hiroshima endorsed his appointment, making him the first Westerner to head a leading Japanese corporation. But concern was voiced that with Ford in control, Mazda would lose its identity and be torn apart by restructuring and downsizing.

Ford lifted its equity stake to 33.4 per cent in April, giving it effective control of Mazda, plagued by sharp falls in both domestic sales and exports. One shareholder demanded to know if the company planned to "hand over its network of dealerships to Ford".

Mr Wallace and his team sought to allay concern, pledging that Mazda would retain its own management style. He wound up the meeting by addressing the 400 shareholders present in English: "I will do my utmost to make this a robust corporation [heading] towards the 21st century."

Mazda was one of 2,235 companies which held their shareholders' meetings across Japan on Thursday, with 10,000 police officers mobilised to guard against disturbances by extortionists known as *sokaiya*. These thugs with underworld connections squeeze money out of companies by promising to keep annual meetings trouble-free and brief — the ideal for Japanese companies that value harmony and "face".

By holding annual meetings on the same day, corporations reduce the chances of being hit by the racketeers. No serious disruptions were reported yesterday, even at companies shaken by scandals.

Sumitomo, at the centre of what may be the biggest financial scandal ever, expected trouble when 475 shareholders gathered at its headquarters in Osaka. The trading house disclosed on June 13 that it had incurred an estimated \$1.8 billion loss because of unauthorised copper dealing by Yasuo Hamanaka. In a stormy session,

Tomiichi Akiyama met boss when his promotion from president to chairman was announced, and faced calls for his resignation. He bowed deeply and apologised. Shareholders approved a proposal to set up a 150 billion yen (£90 million) fund to help to cover the loss and to cancel a share buyback plan.

The meeting was wound up in 40 minutes before Kazuyoshi Yurka, a disgruntled shareholder, could ask all his questions. "I wanted to ask why the directors are trying to put all the blame on Hamanaka," he said after the meeting. The episode underlined that Japanese annual meetings, far from being a platform for investors to air grievances, are little more than a ritual. Boards regard an annual meeting as a success if it ends quickly, with no time for questions about falling profits, unethical practices or other problems. The vast majority of yesterday's meetings, which ended in less than 30 minutes, were a victory for the harmony which Japanese corporate leaders crave.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Allen calls for cash to cut borrowings

ALLEN, the construction company, is raising £16 million by way of a rights issue to fund future development. Investors are offered one new share for every five held at 250p each. Existing shares were unchanged at 283p yesterday. The rights issue has been underwritten by BZW. The net proceeds will initially be used to reduce borrowings, which stood at £24.7 million at the end of May.

The company also announced a 26.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.9 million for the year to March 31. Earnings rose 21.3 per cent to 16.63p a share. A final dividend of 4.15p a share lifts the total almost 21 per cent to 6.65p. Donald Greenhalgh, chairman, said the "excellent" result was achieved in spite of the prolonged recession in the construction sector. Turnover improved by just 2.4 per cent to £109 million. Mr Greenhalgh said the building contracting and civil engineering contracting companies had started the year with increased work in hand, secured at positive margins. Housebuilding companies report an increase in reservations, he said.

BP oil field on-stream

OIL production in the North Sea's Andrew field is under way. British Petroleum, operator of the field with a 62.75 per cent interest, said yesterday oil began flowing at 3,500 barrels per day. Further pre-drilled wells will be brought on-stream in the next two months and the Cyrus sub-sea satellite field will be commissioned in July. BP said combined production will build up to 60,000 barrels daily by the year end. Lismo has a 16.21 per cent interest, Mitsubishi Oil 11.18 per cent, Clyde Petroleum 6.66 per cent and Talisman Energy 3.2 per cent.

Avesta forecasts drop

AVESTA SHEFFIELD, the Anglo-Swedish joint venture that is majority owned by British Steel, issued a profits warning for 1996 yesterday. Per Molin, chief executive, warned shareholders at the annual meeting in Stockholm that "with the programme and activities that are now running, we are going to defend our long-term profit aim, but during 1996 we estimate a significantly lower profit level." In the 15 months to March 31 Avesta Sheffield earned pre-tax profits of SK4,756 billion (£465 million).

Alba profits top £10m

PROFITS at Alba, the UK domestic appliances company whose brands include Bush, Goodmans and Hinnart, rose to £10.42 million before tax from £8.64 million in the year to March 31 after an increase in sales to £169.15 million from £154.63 million. Earnings advanced to 17.02p a share from 14.44p previously. The total dividend is increased to 6p from 5.3p with a 4.75p final. The shares fell 11p to 268p. The company said that sales in the first quarter have increased year on year.

SW Water refund boost

SOUTH WEST WATER, the company facing two hostile bids, moved to improve its customer image yesterday with additional compensation payouts. Its package includes a £10 per day payment for interruptions to water supplies up to a maximum of the annual water charge for households; £50 per day for business users, and a £25 payment for repeated loss of water pressure. The payments will be made for drought interruptions, but not for unexpected failures. The payments are in line with compensation proposals from the industry regulator.

National Power pay day

NATIONAL POWER has set a date for its controversial £1.5 billion dividend payout. The payment, one of the largest in corporate history, will go ahead on August 20. The dividend angered Labour, which said the shareholder bonanza of £1 a share underlined the need for a windfall tax. The payment will be funded from the £1.7 billion sale of three power stations completed yesterday. National Power had signalled a large payout to shareholders when it was preparing to fight a possible bid from Southern Company, the US utility.

Housebuilder recovers

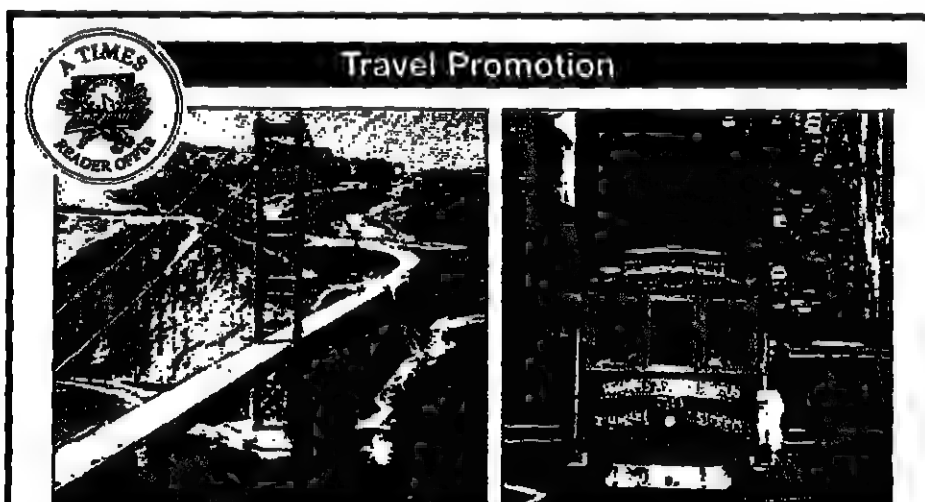
CREST NICHOLSON, the housebuilding and construction company based in Surrey, is maintaining the interim dividend at 0.6p a share, after seeing profits recover to £2.2 million before tax in the six months to April 30, from just £100,000 in the first half of the previous year. Earnings rose to 0.44p a share, from a 0.34p loss last time. The company achieved operating profits of £4.5 million on turnover of £132.4 million, compared with £1.6 million and £125.4 million respectively last time. The shares rose 2½p to 75½p.

Contribution helps Dart

DART GROUP, the distribution and aviation services company, lifted pre-tax profits to £3.6 million (£2.96 million) in the year to March 31, helped by a maiden full-year contribution from Fowler Welch, a distributor of produce for Lincolnshire growers and importers. Profits were struck after an exceptional charge of £424,000 against discontinued activities. Earnings rose to 14.6p a share from 13.4p. The total dividend rises to 5.9p a share from 4.6p, with a final 4p. The shares rose 3p to 231p.

Loss at M Holdings

HOWARD GRANT has resigned as chairman of M L Holdings and is succeeded by Derek Crook, who heads the core electronic components division. Yesterday, the company reported a pre-tax loss of £11.3 million for the year to March 31, after an exceptional charge of £3.6 million against product development and restructuring, and a £6.9 million provision against a loss of the disposal of discontinued activities. Adjusted earnings were 2.1p a share (3p) and there is a final dividend of 1.05p a share, lifting the total 12 per cent to 1.40p.



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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THEATRE

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Of course, quite like, one idea to solid and diverging be a lot turns into married couple the role of the and the other wife. If you behaving as a pregnant woman version of the.


Here Jack, whose wife has he is Charles Randall's first

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ally busy with such different work at all seems to be should get on even more so, if he can't leave, belong to the war the camaraderie that the one or other, especially his suicidal, and anty as black as

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This late period was when Athens besieged and against Sparta irreversibly in the besiegers. What he hoped to persuade



**Bleak outlook
future in Katie**

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IN SUPPORT



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THEATRE 1

Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* wears its years lightly in a fine new West End staging



THEATRE 2

...while, at the Barbican, Euripides wears his millennia well in a strong RSC staging

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 1

The Spitalfields Festival presents intriguing new works by Judith Weir and Anthony Payne



MUSIC 2

The pianist Murray Perahia is in gloriously fluent form for his wide-ranging London recital

THEATRE: The stars have aged, but Neil Simon's elderly comedy is still fresh; plus a bleak Greek

Men behave badly well

One of his country's foremost critics has weirdly opined that if Neil Simon were to overcome his inhibitions and slosh kneedeep in the American middle-class tragedy, he might well go to the seafloor beneath that oiled walnut surface. Well, there isn't much sloshing or tragedy or Atlantic floor evident in *The Odd Couple*, and that is fine by me. Even the woman behind me who spent the evening laughing like a parakeet on LSD — these mixed metaphors and smiles are catching — was not enough of a nuisance to prevent me enjoying a play that wears its 30 years lightly.

The Odd Couple Haymarket

Oiled walnut surface does not seem quite fair either. There is basically one idea in *The Odd Couple*, but it is solid enough to sustain a couple of diverting hours. A play you expect to be a jolly buddy-comedy rapidly turns into a parody of heterosexual married strife, with one buddy taking the role of the messy, sullen husband and the other that of the tidy, nagging wife. If you think of Walter Matthau behaving slobbily and Jack Lemmon priggishly, as they did in the film version, you will get the picture.

Here Jack Klugman is Oscar, whose wife has divorced him because he is chaotic and selfish, and Tony Randall is Felix, whose wife proposes to divorce him because he is neurotically fussy and interfering. That two such different men should be friends at all seems unlikely, and that Oscar should give house-room to Felix is even more so; but Simon does what he can to lessen our disbelief. Both belong to the same poker school, and the camaraderie of the game dictates that the one gives succour to the other, especially as the other parades his suicidal tendencies as flamboyantly as black feathers at a funeral.

Most of the comedy comes after Felix has rid the apartment of its flung-about laundry and thrown-around papers, and done his stuff with the vacuum cleaner and air-freshener. But it is what follows that makes Oscar's nerves, already frayed, definitively snap.

A supper party for the pretty English sisters living next door reduces Felix, who has volunteered to cook, to a floundering, self-pitying, guilt-mongering male harrier. Oscar's erotic plans for Gwendolyn and Cecily, as Simon calls the guests in clear tribute to Wilde, fall flat; but not before the incongruities of the situation have provoked plenty of laughter even among the non-parakeets in the audience.

Fiona Hendley and Sarah Payne twitter away Kensington-style, and Rodney Bewes, Henry McGee and others drop one-liners over the card-table in their best Manhattan mode. Both Randall and Klugman — who actually replaced Matthau as Oscar in the original Broadway production and, with Randall, was in *The Odd Couple* TV series — are too old for their roles, and Klugman has problems with his vocal cords that sometimes make him less comprehensible than he might be; but there is a lot right with their interpretations.

Klugman catches the deliberate boorishness of one kind of impossible husband, and Randall the obsessive brightness of a more hands-on and, he suggests, more manipulative example of the species. Either way, one suspects that the real heroes of the piece are two characters we never meet: the wives who had the good sense to throw them out.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



"A play you expect to be a jolly buddy-comedy rapidly turns into a parody of heterosexual married strife": Jack Klugman as Oscar the slob and Tony Randall as the prickly Felix in *The Odd Couple*

No excess baggage for brothers in arms

This late play by Euripides was first produced when Athens was besieged and the long war against Sparta had moved irreversibly in favour of the besiegers. Whether Euripides hoped to persuade his fellow

citizens to sue for peace is impossible to tell, but in his version of the feud between the sons of Oedipus he creates a darkly vivid picture of the consequences of fratricidal war. "Mounds of dead," says the First Messenger. "Pools of

blood," adds the Second. The brothers slay each other, their mother stabs herself; sister and sundry cousins are not long for this world. The end is as bleak as anything Euripides wrote because even the closing lines, thought to be

spurious, offer no hope for a better future, and those that precede them point to further disasters ahead. Possibly the Phoenician women, trapped inside the walls of Thebes, will escape being raped by conquering Argives but that is the best he will offer.

Katie Mitchell's strong and absorbing production from last year's Stratford is more audience-friendly in the basin-like Pit than on the level floor of the Other Place. Her setting is in her favourite colour — black — with candles glimmering in front of three Cycladic statues. Polyneices, the son who starts off with a just grievance, wears armour and a sword, but nobody else comes encumbered with any possessions at all. Everything is pared down, and the more impressive for that, though

The Phoenician Women Barbican Pit

the opposite effect occurs when an account of the calamities has to be told to blind Oedipus, to bring him up to date with events. A touch of the knife could slice off a few lines here, unless Mitchell can devise a way to stop us becoming aware that our seats feel hard.

The Chorus utter their Phoenician ululations in unison but are otherwise presented as individuals, even to the point of being allotted names in the programme. Mitchell generally groups them in small clusters towards the rear but then breaks up the pattern, spreading them across the stage in the most realistic attitudes of alertness and concern.

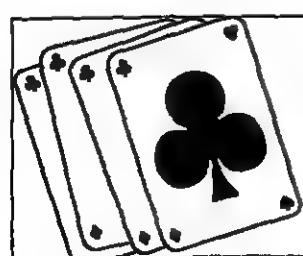
Lorraine Ashbourne's anguished Jocasta, disturbingly scarred up and down both arms, welcomes Dermot

Kerrigan's Polyneices with so keen a passion, such a multitude of kisses, that the memory of this comforting love persists through the play as the desired alternative to all the harsh edicts and hatreds elsewhere expressed. Lucy Whibrow movingly shows Antigone's forced growth from innocence to grim-faced resolve and independence.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Bleak outlook: the unfortunate women of Thebes face grim predictions for their future in Katie Mitchell's spare production of Euripides's *The Phoenician Women*



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The key to Arhus

WHILE the Nordic Music Season makes its discreet progress through mainland Britain, Orkney has witnessed something little short of an invasion. Hilary Finch writes. The Danish Navy arrived in Kirkwall harbour on an exercise just as the St Magnus Festival was beginning; a maverick Danish trombonist blasted his way into the cathedral; the Arhus Sinfonietta settled itself into the little grey town of the Norwegian earls; and an Icelandic rock band, Gammar, took over the festival club.

The trombonist brought with him an organist: together Neils-Ole Johansson and Ulrich Sprang-Hanssen form Embedsmændsduoen, or the Civil Service Duo, and, while their appearance and manner certainly lives up to that promise, their music-making, thank goodness, does not. They regaled a sedate midday audience with pieces from all five Nordic countries. The most impressive was Icelandic Askell Masson's *Kadenza for solo trombone*, which exploited everything the instrument could possibly do, and more, in an audacious piece whose basis in Gregorian chant gave it a boldly expressive coherence. I also enjoyed another chant-based work, Norwegian Egil Hovland's complex and eclectic *Cantus V* for trombone and organ.

ST MAGNUS FESTIVAL

Meanwhile, as the midnight sun rose from the day's unremitting gloom, the lights in St Magnus's long sandstone nave were dimmed for a rare performance of Peter Maxwell Davies's *Tenebrae super Gesualdo*, the four meditations for ensemble, originally written for the Fires of London, and now played graphically by members of the Arhus Sinfonietta, complete with the original, alternating choral fragments of Gesualdo's *O vos omnes*. Even the composer had never heard a complete performance before — and was clearly impressed by the richly coloured voices of Orkney's Mayfield Singers, echoing from the west end of the nave.

The Sinfonietta, conducted by Søren Hansen, also brought with it Karl Aage Rasmussen's violin concerto, *Sinking through the Dream Mirror*, a true ensemble work, spangled with some beguiling formal and instrumental ideas, but overextended; and the Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho's *Lichtbogen* for chamber orchestra and electronics, an eloquent aural transcription of her experience of the Northern Lights, and now something of a classic in contemporary Nordic writing.

BRENDAN FRASER · ASHLEY JUDD VIGGO MORTENSEN



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CHOICE 2

... and Oscar
Peterson, veteran
giant of jazz,
is also in town

VENUE: Tomorrow
at the Barbican

THE TIMES
ARTS

POP 1

In memoriam:
Patti Smith
draws on her
bereavement
for an impressive
new album

POP 2

... while Lyle
Lovett serves up
country music
with a twist of
bitters on *The
Road to Ensenada*

Darker shade of pale

POP ALBUMS:
David Sinclair
welcomes the
return — in fine
form — of a
1970s survivor



Mortal coils: Patti Smith's recent bereavements have given her work an elegiac edge

PATTI SMITH
Gone Again
(Arista 74321 38474)
EMERGING from a 15-year
retirement (broken only by
the low-key release of *Dream
of Life* album in 1988), Patti
Smith is in a reflective but
typically forthright mood on
Gone Again. In recent years
the 1970s icon has had to cope
with the loss of her husband,
Fred "Sonny" Smith, her younger
brother, Todd Smith, and
her close friend, Robert
Mapplethorpe, and under-
standably death is never far
from her thoughts.

It is a theme which weaves
throughout this album of rare
eloquence and a range that
links the bohemian folk-rock
tradition of Bob Dylan to the
blues-wailing wail of P.J.
Harvey. From the clumping,
American Indian riff of
the title track to the delicate
piano of *Farwell Real*, the
album is a powerful affecting
elegy to those she has
loved and lost.

At 49, Smith has taken up
the acoustic guitar, and while
she retains the unflinching
songwriting style of her younger
years, her vision is now
tempered with the wisdom of
experience. *Summer Canni-
bals* stands out as a particu-
larly extraordinary lyric, de-
picting stark images of
cannibalism as a metaphor for
sexual temptation: "The flesh
was lean and the women
moved forward like pinheads
in a stream". Co-written with
Fred Smith, it also boasts the
strongest rock'n'roll riff she
has come up with since her
biggest hit, *Because the Night*.

The band personnel of
legend are present and correct,
including drummer Jay
Dee Daugherty and guitarist/
producer Lenny Kaye, together
with guest contributors
such as Tom Verlaine, John
Cale and Jeff Buckley. *Gone
Again* is a spectacular return
to form that surely exceeds all
reasonable expectations.

DAVE MATTHEWS BAND
Crash
(RCA/BMG 07863 66904)
THE current vogue for tarring
all image-free American acts
of a certain vintage with the
Hootie & the Blowfish brush
makes little sense in the case
of the Dave Matthews Band.
Their last album, *Under the
Table and Dreaming*, which
has sold four million copies in

America, was a highly un-
usual fusion of folk, jazz, acoustic
rock and world-music influ-
ences. And if they have nar-
rowed the focus on the follow-
up, *Crash*, it has hardly
turned them into a corporate
rock machine.

The worst that can be said
about the Matthews Band is
that at their most rambling
and laid-back, as on *Profound
Monkeys*, they tend to sound a
bit like Sting. But the first
single, *Too Much*, is a bril-
liantly scripted slice of white
man's funk and there is plenty
more where that came from.
The superlative musicianship
and frequently metaphysical
slant of the lyrics may not be
to everyone's taste. But dull
American trad-rock it is not.

BOOTH AND THE BAD ANGEL
Booth and the Bad Angel
(Fontana/Mercury 526 852)
BOOTH is Tim Booth, the
singer in James, and the Bad
Angel is Angelo Badalamenti,
composer of the *Twin Peaks*
soundtrack.

It is a strange partnership

and one which looks, on the
face of it, ripe for pretentious
excess. But the duo's debut
album is a feast of intelligent
pop tunes given a subtle, left-
field twist, not least by the
mysterious semi-reggae
track *Life Gets Better*. But you
instinctively feel that it is
Badalamenti who exercises
the guiding hand, giving free
rein to the choruses of songs —
from the soppy synth-pop of
Fall in Love with Me to the
melancholy ballad *Rising* —
yet subtly steering the ar-
rangements in unusual and
intriguing directions.

Booth gives it plenty of
1990s pop star angst: "Only
pain is deep/The rest is just an
American dream". He sings in
the mysterious semi-reggae
track *Life Gets Better*. But you
instinctively feel that it is
Badalamenti who exercises
the guiding hand, giving free
rein to the choruses of songs —
from the soppy synth-pop of
Fall in Love with Me to the
melancholy ballad *Rising* —
yet subtly steering the ar-
rangements in unusual and
intriguing directions.

LYLE LOVETT
The Road to Ensenada
(Curb/MCA MCD 11409)
FOR those who like their
country music served with
plenty of wry and a twist of
bitters, Lyle Lovett returns

with what is, by his standards,
an unusually straightforward
album. He pokes affectionate
fun at his Texan roots on the
western swing of *That's Right
(You're Not from Texas)* and
the clip-clopping Murray
Kellum song *Long Tall Texan*,
a duet with Randy Newman.

But there is also plenty of
gentle soul-searching, as in
the pedal-steel shuffle of *I
Can't Love You Anymore*, and
a dose of deadly serious heart-
ache on the slow, stark *Promises*.
"And what if my fingers/Tot
you/Could gain my redemption/
I'd cut off my hand." Thank-
fully, it is not as painful as
it might sound.

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HANK MOBLEY
*Hank Mobley and His All
Stars*
(Blue Note CDP 7243 8 37668
2 6)
IF a jazz label is most fairly
judged by its strength in depth,
rather than by its odd com-
mercial successes, Blue Note
must take the crown, courtesy
chiefly of players such as tenor
saxophonist Hank Mobley.

Mobley is a quintessential
Blue Note hard-bop artist,
unfussy and considered in his
approach, his tone warm and
round, his improvising consist-
ently melodic yet imbued
with a carefully controlled
energy. On this reissue of a
1957 session, he shares the
front line with vibes player
Milt Jackson, who demon-
strates what a peerless inter-
preter of the blues he is.
Pianist Horace Silver also
specialises in imparting lucid
funkiness to blues-based ma-
terial, so with drummer Art
Blakey and bassist Doug Wil-
kins on top form, this is a first-
class session.

JAZZ ALBUMS

Five
of the
best

MICHAEL BRECKER
Tales from the Hudson
(Impulse IMP 1192)

AS *Hamlet* was once famous-
ly criticised for being full of
quotations, Michael Brecker's
confident, blistering tenor
sound is often undervalued
because it has been paid the
sincerest form of flattery by
the soundtracks of too many
hip American television im-
ports. Brecker's approach can
occasionally lapse into the
merely formulaic on some of
his blander fusion fare, but
here he restricts himself to
unadorned jazz in the finest
company. In addition to long-
time associate Joe Calderazzo
on piano, Brecker has also
called on one of the finest
rhythm sections in the music
business: Dave Holland and
drummer Jack DeJohnette, to
anchor a pleasantly varied
selection of originals.

Brecker shares main solo
duties with guitarist Pat
Metheny, and the combina-
tion is a notably successful
addition to the growing num-
ber of jazz recordings featur-
ing guitar and tenor front
lines. Instead of saxophone
and trumpet. For a couple of
the livelier numbers, Meth-
eny's shuffling *Song for Bi-
bao* and Brecker's driving
African Skies, pianist McCoy
Tyner replaces Calderazzo,
but overall, the album is a
triumph of courtesy of the com-
mitment, virtuosity and cohe-
siveness of its central quintet.

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terial, so with drummer Art
Blakey and bassist Doug Wil-
kins on top form, this is a first-
class session.

CHRIS PARKER

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NINA SIMONE Interesting recording
chances play by P.O. Concert (author of
the *Hour of the Lyric*) about Hans
Christian Andersen's misadventure longing
to find fame as a tragedian. Nina
Simone's director is a one of her best
by Jason Moran as HCA.
Young Vic, 56 The Cut, SE1 (0171-628
8855). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm.

ELSEWHERE

CHAPTER TWO Tom Conti and
Sharon Gless play unscripted New
Yorkers whirling towards each other in
Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best.
Glasgow, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1
(0171-434 5055). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat,
8.15pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 3pm.

CONJUGALIA Steven Berkoff's
much-travelled production arrives
in London with himself as a snarling,
ear-slapping Lucius.
Marsden, Fiddle Dock, EC4 (0171-
333 2211). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Sat,
3pm, Sun, 2pm.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Peter Hall's
adaptation of Heynck's production, with
James Pegg, David Thewlis, Nelsy
Hanson, Kim Thompson, George Winters
and Neil McCulloch.
Old Vic, Waterloo Rd, SE1 (0171-428
7918). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Wed and
Sat, 3pm.

JANE THE CURIOUS Jane
Alfreds directs his study adaptation of
Hardy's turbulent novel for Method &
Madness: a company of four, playing in
repertoire with two other productions
for seven weeks.
Lyric, King St, Hammersmith, W6
(0171-741 2311). Tonight, tomorrow,
7.30pm; mat. tomorrow, 3.30pm.

NEW CAMPBELL'S THEATRE
The emerald theatre
continues its series of new works
30 years in the business. A Sweeney
New Stage commission
Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square,

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts
and entertainment
compiled by Martin Hargre

opportunity to enjoy Britten's comic
opera, *Albert Herring*.
Garrington Opera, Oxford OX4 9DH
(01865 361 636)

GLASGOW First night of the Glasgow
Jazz Festival. A varied programme that
will include the Royal Scottish National
Orchestra and the Royal Scottish National
Orchestra.

MANCHESTER Euro 96
drawings with the popular singing
group Slade. Read to mark the
European Football Championship final.
Old Trafford Football Ground (0161-
277 5554). Tomorrow, 3pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment
of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
to some seats available
to seats at all prices

SW1 (0171-730 1748). Tonight-Wed,
mat. Sat, 3.30pm; mat. Sat, 3.30pm.

THE ODD COUPLE After leaving
Neil Simon's hit comedy throughout
America and Australia, Jack Klugman
and Tony Randall bring Harvey
Milkman's production to London,
playing the two divorced husbands, slob
and fastidious. See review, page 23.

THE PAINTERS OF DIGNITY
Cassidy explores a grim society
shattered by the demands of honour.
Sara Mah-Thorne and John Carls in
good voice with the issues seem
relevant.

PR. Barbican, Silk Street EC2 (0171-
638 8891). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.15;
mat. tomorrow, 2.15pm.

STANLEY Introducing Pam Cline
play, with Anthony Shee as a beleaguered
Stanley Spencer, inspired by Cookham.

CINEMA GUIDE

David Griffith's assessment of
films in London and where
indicated with the symbol (A) =
on release across the country

THE COMPROMISED (15).
Complex drama spun round identity,
truth and Alvin Karpis, a dazzling
career debut for fresh-faced Robert
Lepage. With Louise Latham.
Lancaster (0171-638 0891). Reread
(0171-637 6402)

EYE FOR AN EYE (16). Sally Field
judo revolution for her daughter's
life. Sally Field's drama with a
worthy ally. With Kiefer Sutherland, Ed
Harris, Candi Carroll, John Schlesinger.
MGM (0171-437 1234). UCI
Whitely (0171-722 3332)

PARGO (18). A kidnapping goes
haywire in the Midwest. Wonderful
humane crime thriller from Joel and
Ethel Coen.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742). UCI
Tottenham Court Road (0171-437 1234).
Tottenham Court Road (0171-437 1234).
Tottenham Court Road (0171-437 1234).

**A TWIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE
AND HATE** (18). D.R. comedy about
a child's disappearance. Martin

LONDON GALLERIES

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POP 3

All set for Hyde Park: Roger Daltrey prepares for *Quadrophenia*, 23 years on



POP 4

Sunrise in the west: Gorky's Zygotic Mynči are among a clutch of great new Welsh bands

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 5

Elvis Costello and the Attractions open their tour with a very laid-back show in Dublin



TOMORROW

From *Hill Street Blues* to Henry James: Daniel Travanti on the road to *The Aspern Papers*

Talking about regeneration

The Who's singer Roger Daltrey tells Paul Sexton about reviving *Quadrophenia* in front of 150,000 people in Hyde Park tomorrow

Later tomorrow afternoon in Hyde Park, the Who and supporting cast — we are politely asked to use the collective "Pete Townshend and Friends" — will remake a moment of rock history. And an expected crowd of 150,000 will ponder if their performance of the band's 1973 album *Quadrophenia* can be anything but a footnote to the career of a rock'n'roll colossus that will not quite die.

At the MasterCard Masters Of Music Concert for the Prince's Trust, Townshend is reviving his complex musical depiction of Jimmy, the 1960s adolescent struggling for self-awareness in the mod playground of Brighton. The occasion will evoke nostalgia for the early days of the Who themselves, so closely is Jimmy's story interwoven with that of the band itself.

The event marks Townshend's first performance with John Entwistle and Roger Daltrey since the Who's twenty-fifth anniversary tour in 1989. And Daltrey is straining at the leash. "It's still magical music," he says during a break in rehearsals. "That's one thing that never ceases to amaze me about Who music. I love so many bands, but when you hear Who music, it's not like anything else."

Daltrey, who at 52 has the physique of a very fit man 15 years younger, is revelling in celebrating again a piece of Who heritage, even if the band name does not appear on the bill. "Course it's the bloody 'oo," he splutters. "John calls it Ted: Townshend, Entwistle, Daltrey. Pete's got a problem with the Who, and I haven't. I'm very proud of working for 25 years building up the name of one of the world's greatest rock'n'roll bands."

This and subsequent *Quadrophenia* performances, including six shows at Madison Square Garden next month, afford the opportunity to make up for the Who's abortive

performances of the album in 1974. "We were dealing with technology which wasn't up to our ambitions," says Daltrey. "You had to put all the synthesizer tracks on to a tape machine and play to click tracks. For Keith Moon it was complete hell, because he wasn't that kind of drummer. Plus the piece does need a narrator if you're going to do it on stage." That role will be filled tomorrow by Phil Daniels, the star

I love so many bands, but when you hear Who music, it's not like anything else

of the 1979 film of the piece.

The charity that will benefit from the London show provides motivation of its own. "The Prince's Trust is a fantastic charity," says Daltrey. "A young person who wants to be a hairdresser but can't afford to buy his scissors can go to the Prince's Trust and it'll teach him about putting a business plan forward. If he then earns enough, he pays back the trust. The number of people it's helped is unreal."

After seven years, Daltrey is returning to centre stage in the most public way. "I'm just going to enjoy it. It's hard, though. I sang this piece 25 years ago, and some of those top notes are high Cs, full voice. But I've never really cared about notes. I much prefer a bum note and a bead of sweat to something so cool that you're falling asleep."

His vexation that Townshend called time on the Who as a recording entity after 1982's poorly received *It's Hard* is still close to the surface. "It frustrated me to death

that Pete resigned when he did. Who music was probably the first really ballsy rock'n'roll music with a writer with the courage and the ability to write through his life. For me, the problems of middle-age are far more interesting, and much more difficult, to write about, and I always felt that with Pete writing for the Who, we would have been the ultimate band addressing that part of our lives."

But he adds: "I was very reluctant to do this, it wasn't an easy decision. I would like the Who to go on, but I don't want it to be the same. If you asked me to go and play a Who's greatest-hits tour, like the 1989 tour, I would say no. We've got something better within us."

With the band's demise in the early 1980s, Daltrey developed his acting career and, reluctantly, his solo recording. His image as country squire and salmon-farm owner is now almost as familiar as that of the microphone-swinging, bubble-haired rock figurehead on the newly released video *Listening to You*, from the Who's performance at the 1970 Isle of Wight Festival. "I love living in the country," he says defiantly of his other life. "I don't use it as a dormitory, I live there. I'm very proud of it."

Proud, and grateful. "That's what's kept me sane," he says. "I could have really easily gone off the rails. I was at the Hard Rock in Las Vegas, and on the screen in the bar were all these people I knew when I was 23: Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, Mama Cass, Jimi Hendrix... and I suddenly realised, these people are no longer alive, and I could have been one of them. Moon as well. I was just very lucky that I managed to get the balance correct. That's all life is, isn't it? Shame you don't understand it when you're 16."

● The video *Listening to You — Live At The Isle of Wight* is released by Warner Music Vision. The newly remixed *Quadrophenia* is released by Polydor



A quick one while they are all together: Roger Daltrey, now 52, has never really reconciled himself to the break-up of the Who — "It frustrated me to death that Pete resigned when he did"

LIVE GIG

His aim still true

IT was a very laid-back Elvis Costello who waltzed onstage at the National Stadium in Dublin and picked up his acoustic guitar, kicking off a two-hour set with an unaccompanied *Just About Glad* from 1994's back-to-basics album, *Brutal Youth*. A few numbers passed before the Attractions came on midway through *Oliver's Army* and, from there on, the flashy keyboard workouts of Steve Nieve and the rock-solid rhythm section of Pete and Bruce Thomas provided the backbone to a performance that was duly satisfying, if not quite exceptional.

Elvis Costello
Dublin

This was partly the fault of the somewhat dour venue and partly because of the distraction caused by the England-Germany football match, which was being screened in the "ringside bar", so it was not surprising Costello found it difficult to get into his stride. Of course by the time he begins his residency at London's Shepherd's Bush on July 5, this won't be an issue.

On this night we were treated to a generous selection of songs from his current album, *All This Useless Beauty*. Particular standouts included the title track, *The Other End of the Telescope*, and *Poor Fractured Atlas*. But it was not until the electric charge of *Pump It Up* that the subdued audience sprang to life. Costello leaped nimbly through his back pages, even transforming a new song, *Distorted Angel*, into a medley of *This Year's Model* and *I Don't Want To Go To Chelsea*. The sublime Alison closed the show, sending the Euro 96 buffs back to their videos well and truly contented.

NICK KELLY

Caitlin Moran sings the praises of a nation under the weirdest of grooves

Today Wales, tomorrow...

Until recently, parts of the music industry suffered from a disease known as "herding". It would occur whenever a band from "the provinces" (ie, anywhere outside the M25) suddenly rose to prominence. In 1988, for instance, the day after Manchester's Happy Mondays appeared on *Top of the Pops*, having broken into the Top 20, every flight and train seat up to Manchester had been booked up by A&R men. The words of their label bosses were still ringing in their ears: "Smithers, I want a Manchester band and I want one now. The kiddies go wild for them. Do not darken this door until you've got me four working-class lads who've been listening to Sly Stone."

And so Smithers and 50 of his peers trekked to Manchester, hung around clubs and pubs until they had found a band with a Manc accent, and dragged it back to London.

This happens so often it is starting to be seen as "normal" A&R behaviour. The locations change but the routine remains the same. Goldrush fever sets in, whether it be



Say it loud, they're Welsh and proud: Gorky's Zygotic Mynči are an invigorating sum of many influences

around Happy Mondays, Nirvana, Portishead or Oasis, and suddenly the streets of Seattle, Bristol and Manchester are filled with desperate men trying to find the next cash cow. This has no logic at all. When the people of Melton Mowbray came up with the pork pie, there wasn't a sudden deluge of bakers from around the country flooding Leicestershire, eagerly await-

ing the next progression in pastry and pig.

Of course, there's always an exception that proves the rule: and in this case the exception is a whole country. Wales has suddenly become a melting pot of assorted mad geniuses: 60ft Dolls, Gorky's Zygotic Mynči, Super Furry Animals, Catatonia and the well-established Manic Street Preachers are all starting to put Wales in

the old Rock'n'Roll Atlas of Britain.

The way a music-influenced kid in Wales consumes music is different from most other kids in Britain. Unless you live in Swansea or Cardiff, your access to music is limited and eclectic. The small, second-hand stores such as Cob in Porthmadog and Hag's in Lampeter have a range that's generally well outside the current mainstream — Krautrock nestles by C&W; Simple Minds' first four albums are always available for £3 each, and strange psychedelic bands from the 1960s clutter every section.

Very little of what's currently in the charts filters through. Therefore, the musical self-education that all music-obsessed kids go through between the ages of 13 and 19 is a radically different one, leading to bands that exist outside the Beatles/Stones/Floyd/Pistols/Smiths/R.E.M./Nirvana/Oasis blueprint most bands follow so faithfully. These tiny, strange record shops influence bands such as Gorky's Zygotic Mynči, who become a different band for each track on their albums, from gently strummed Syd Barrett stuff to mad zydeco.

Similarly, Super Furry Animals' *Hometown Unicorn*, their shiniest moment to date, wanders through Strawbs, XTC and Teardrop Explodes. Catatonia's skewed view of pop — make it loud, odd and melodic — has been gaining swaths of adoration, and 60ft Dolls seem set to become huge this year with their aggressive, off-kilter punk rock.

In the past few years people's tastes have become ever more eclectic. Artists as weird as Björk, Tricky and the Divine Comedy have become big-selling acts. There's a new hunger for different, radical, out-there pop which conventional rock'n'pop can't satisfy. The message from Wales seems to be: strike out for the uncharted waters — the pickings are richer there.

● Super Furry Animals' album *Fuzzy Logic* is released by Creation. The single *Amber Gambler*, by Gorky's Zygotic Mynči, is on Ankt. The single, *Happy Shopper*, by 60ft Dolls, is released by Indolent on July 6

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Applications are invited for Visiting Fellowships in the Humanities Research Centre in 1998. Each year the Centre concentrates upon a special theme. In 1998 the theme will be 'Home and Away: Journeys, Migrations, Diasporas'. The Centre intends to organise four conferences around this theme with two being held early in the year (mid-March-April) and the other two in Spring (September). These conferences are tentatively entitled: 'Black Diaspora' (in conjunction with the Australian and New Zealand American Studies Association); 'Romanticism and the Asia-Pacific' (to be held jointly with the National Library of Australia and the National Gallery of Australia); 'Scatterings of Empire: Anglo-Celtic Migrations of the Pacific Rim' (to be held jointly with the Centre for British Studies, Adelaide); 'Ireland and Australia, 1798-1998' (joint HRC and Tenth Irish-Australian Studies Conference to be held in Melbourne). Applications from scholars working in any area of the humanities are welcomed, as a proportion of each year's Fellowships is reserved for those without special interest in the year's theme; the majority of Fellowships, however, will be awarded to those whose work is relevant to the annual theme and its conferences. Fellows are expected to work at the Centre, but are encouraged also to visit other Australian universities. Grants usually include a travel component and a weekly living allowance. Prospective applicants must obtain further particulars and application forms from the Centre Administrator, Humanities Research Centre, The Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 0200, Australia, fax (61 6) 248 0054; E-mail: administration.hrc@anu.edu.au or Web address <http://www.anu.edu.au/HRC/Home.html>. Further information is also available from Appointments (45122), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF (tel. 0171 387 8572 Ext. 206; fax 0171 813 3055; email appts@acu.ac.uk). Applications should reach the Secretary, ANU by 31 October 1996. Ref: HR 18.6.1

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For further details and application forms please contact: Professor John Kay, Ref: C77/S/126, Head of Department of Manufacturing Systems and Design, SIMS, Cranfield University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0AL.

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The normal EPSRC grant will be supplemented by a generous contribution from British Aerospace. For information and applications contact: Dr E R de los Rios, Department of Mechanical & Process Engineering, The University of Sheffield, Mapin Street, Sheffield S1 3JD. Tel: 0114-282 5159

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EDUCATION
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PAGE 39

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EDUCATION

As thousands await A-level results, Bruce Kemble and John O'Leary offer a list of unfilled degree courses

The Times degree vacancies guide

A levels are all but over and the anxious wait begins for hundreds of thousands of university applicants. This two-page guide should provide many of them with the first good news in the process.

The courses listed here all have places available whatever the public examination results may bring. Using this information intelligently may make the difference between gaining a place on the degree course of your choice and deciding eventually not to go on to higher education.

No matter how confident you are of succeeding in achieving the grades expected of you, when the results are published on August 15, it would be wise to keep this list. The information it contains will provide a head start in the annual scramble for places.

If your envelope reveals that you have not achieved the grades you wanted, you can be first in the queue and on the phone as soon as university and college admissions offices open. But there are other categories of student who need this list, among them the many students who have failed to obtain any conditional offers of university places. These unfortunates can grab one of these vacancies by phoning an admissions office direct to secure a conditional place.

In addition, there are those who now know that they did badly in the examination and are certain they will not get the grades for which they were asked. They may well be wrong — candidates are prone to fear the

worst — but they should keep this list in case the nightmare becomes a reality.

Many thousands of students have not even applied to a university yet. They may have taken an A-level course not intending to see passes as a passport to a degree. But now, with this detailed list, they and others who left school long ago can think again.

At the last count, about a third of all those making degree-level courses were aged over 25 and therefore classified as mature students. Some, a brave adventurous few, were in their eighties. So even if you have never thought of going to university, consider it now. It could be the chance of a lifetime.

Details of these and other empty places in the main subject areas (with a summary of the vacancy situation last year) are published in *Degree Course Vacancies 1996*, edited by Brian Heap and obtainable from PO Box 24, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 9YH (£7.50, including postage).

During the summer, and in the last-minute scramble for places, however, lower offers may be expected, depending on the quality of the applicant, the subject and the number of vacancies that are available.

The Times will publish a comprehensive, daily listing of vacancies when the clearing process begins. The service will start on Monday August 19 and will last throughout the official clearing period.



Awaiting A-level results? Even if you have never thought of going to university, consider it now. It could be the chance of a lifetime

Geology or Environmental Pollution Science or French or German or Spanish, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Pollution Science, Technology & Business Studies, Surveying For Resource Development, Mineral Resource Development, Biotechnology, Applied Sports Science, Sports Psychology, Food Science & Technology and Environmental Geoscience.

BA in: Combined Studies, Criminology, Criminal Justice, Women's Studies, Communication Studies, Theatre & Media Drama, Creative Arts, Humanities, Humanities (Sociology) or (Psychology) or (Geography) or (Women's Studies) or (English) or (American Studies) or (Welsh Studies) or (History) or (Philosophy) or (Religion) or (Theatre & Media Drama) or (Visual Arts), English Studies, Mathematics & Business Studies, Accounting & Finance, Product Design, Public Management, Public Policy, Business Information Management, Business Studies, Enterprise & Small Business, European Business Administration, Marketing Purchasing & Supply Chain Management, Marketing with Languages, Human Resource Management, Leisure & Tourism Management, Recreation Management, LLB in Law.

BA/BSc: Joint Honours, Major/Minor

Huddersfield University 01484 422288

Arts Music and Humanities: BA (Hons) in: Music with Theatre Studies or with Modern Language or English, English Studies, English and History, English & Communication Arts, Theatre Studies & Communication Arts, French or German or Spanish & Communication Arts, Theatre Studies, History, Politics, Politics with Contemporary History or Media Studies, Modern Languages, Business Studies with a Modern Language, Computing with a Modern European Language, BSc (Hons) in: Geography or Human Ecology, Business including Management, Finance and Law: BA (Hons) in: Business Studies, Business Studies with a Modern Language, Economics (Financial Services Route), Politics and Economics, Marketing, Marketing with a Modern Language, and Distribution Transport and Logistics Management, European Logistics Management, Accountancy Studies, Management & Accountancy.

Continued on page 38

Aston University
0121 359 3611
BSc in: French & German, European Studies with French & German or just German, International Business and Modern Languages, Management & Administrative Studies, Marketing, Accounting for Management, Business Computing & IT, Law with Legal Practice Management, Operations Management and Organizational Studies, BEng in: Civil or Chemical Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry.

Bangor Normal College
01248 370171
B Ed (Hons) Primary Education in: Art & Design, Textile Arts/Technology, Geography with Environmental Studies, Music, History, Religious Studies, English Literature, Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Studies, Physical Education and Science, B Ed (Hons) Secondary in: Design & Technology, BA (Hons) in: Business & Social Administration, Environmental Planning & Management and Leisure & Tourism Resource Management.

Bath College of Higher Education
01225 573701
BSc (Hons) in: Food Management, Human Ecology and Remote Sensing & Geographic Information Systems.

Bedford College, Bedford
01234 212299
BA in: Business in Business Administration, BSc in: Engineering Degree Scheme.

Bournemouth University
01202 503900
BA (Hons) in: Information Systems Management, Health & Community Studies, Health & Community Studies and Land Based Enterprise.

Brackenhurst College
01636 817000
BSc (Hons) in: Equine Studies.

Brighton University
01273 600900
BA (Hons) in: Dance with Visual Practice, Music with Visual Practice, Theatre with Visual Practice, History of Design, Cultural & Historical Studies, History of Decorative Arts & Crafts, Business Studies, International Accounting & Finance, Accountancy with Law, Applied Language, International Hospitality Management, Management & Food Retailing or Public Policy Studies or Hospitality or Tourism, or Travel Industry Studies or French, Public Policy & Administration, Information & Library Studies, Computing & Information Systems, Computer Science, BA in Education with Qualified Teacher Status: In Design & Technology, Business, Secondary Mathematics, Secondary Science, Modern Languages, Business Education & IT.

BA (Hons) in: Upper Primary/Lower Secondary Education with QTS: In English, Mathematics, Religious Studies, Science, Design & Technology, BSc (Hons) in: Environmental Sciences, Geography, Building Surveying, Construction Management, Project Man-

agement, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Electronic & Computer Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Electronic Engineering and Broadcast Engineering, Power Engineering and European Business with Technology, European Nursing Studies, Software Engineering, Computer Studies, BEng in: Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing Systems, Mechanical & Environmental Engineering, Mechanical & Aeronautical Design Engineering, Engineering Systems Simulation & Control Engineering.

Bradford College
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BSc in: Computing, Electrical or Electronic or Mechanical or Manufacture Engineering, Mechatronics, Information Technology, Industrial Business Studies.

Buckingham University
01280 814080
Degree Courses in: Accounting & Financial Management or Economics or Finance with French or Finance with Spanish, Financial Services, International Hotel Management, Business Studies, Business Studies with Tourism or Information Systems, Marketing with French or Spanish, Economics, Business Economics, Economics with Politics or French or Spanish, Law, English & European Law with French or Spanish, Law, History, History & English Literature, English Literature, English Literature & History of Art, History of Art & Heritage Management, History of Art and English Language Studies, English Language and Literature for Speakers of Other Languages, English Language Studies with Literature or with Psychology, Law and Politics, Politics with Economics or Law or Spanish or French, Information Systems, Information Systems with Accounting.

Chichester Institute of Higher Education
(Before August 1) 01243 365581; (After August 1) 01243 310000
BA (Hons) with Qualified Teacher Status for Primary School Teaching: Various specialised subjects, BA (Hons) with QTS for Secondary Mathematics Teaching, BA (Hons) in: Health Studies, Social Studies, History, Religious Studies, Geography, Mathematics, Environmental Science, Related Arts.

Colchester Institute
01206 718000
BSc in: Environmental Monitoring & Protection.

Cranfield University
01793 785434
Engineering: Aeronautical Systems, Civil, Mechanical, Logistic (Electrical), Logistic (Mechanical), Electrical, Electronic Systems and Software, Information Technology, Command and Control, Communications and Information Systems, Information Systems Management, Business Information Systems, Diagnostic Radiography and Therapeutic Radiography.

(Silsoe & Shuttleworth Colleges)
01525 863318
BEng (Hons) in: Agricultural Engineering, Environmental Engineering (Land & Water), BSc (Hons) in: Agricultural Technology & Management, Business Management & the Environment, Environment Management, Marketing & Food Management and Physical Geography.

Central Lancashire University
01772 892413
Science: Applied Biochemistry or Biology or Chemistry of Physics, Biological Chemistry, Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry for International Land Management, Geography, Mathematical Sciences.

Mathematics, Neuroscience, Observational Astronomy, Physics (four-year degree), Physics/Astronomy, Physiology/Pharmacology, Psychology/Applied Psychology, Amenity Landscape Horticulture, Commercial Floral Design, Dairy Herd Management, Ecology and Conservation Management, Environmental Business Studies, Environmental Land Management, Equine Science and Management, Forestry, Horticulture, Tourism/Leisure Sustainable Tourism and Turf Sciences and Golf Course Management, Electronic Engineering, Design, Industrial Design, Mechanical and Production Engineering, Media Technology, Product Design, Quantity Surveying and Software Engineering, Cultural, Legal and Social Studies: American Studies, Design History and Material Culture, English Language, English Literary Studies, European Studies, Film and Media Studies, History, Languages for International Business, Languages with Tourism, Law (LLB), Law and Languages, Modern Languages, Politics and Government, Public Administration, Social Policy and Administration and Women's Studies, Health: Health Sciences for Complementary Medicine, Health Studies and Nursing Studies.

De Montfort University (School of Health & Community Studies)
0116 255 1551
BSc in: Management Science, Mathematics & Statistics, Mathematics with Computing, Medical & Health Statistics, Medical Statistics & Biophysics, Management Science & Economics, Economics & Management Science, BA/BSc in: Business Information Systems, BSc (Hons) in: Nursing with Registration, Adult Nursing, Mental Health Nursing

and Children's Nursing, (School of Applied Arts & Design) 01522 512912
BA in: Fine Art, Historic & Contemporary Decorative Crafts, Fashion & Associated Studies, Study of Visual Culture, Joint Degree of Fine Art/Study of Visual Culture.

(Department of Biological Sciences)
0116 257 7728
BA (Hons) in: Environmental Biology, Applied Toxicology and Biotechnology in Applied Biology, Science & Environment, Biotechnology, Applied Biology.

(School of Humanities)
0116 255 1551
BA (Hons) in: Politics, History of Art & Design, BA (Hons) in: Joint Arts & Humanities, Politics, International Relations, French, German, Hispanic Studies, South Asian Studies, History of Art & Design (choose two subjects), BA (Hons) in: Combined Arts & Humanities (same as above list plus Business Information Systems (choose three subjects)), BA (Hons) in: Joint Art & Humanities in English, History, Media Studies, Performing Arts, Politics (choose two subjects), BA (Hons) in: Combined Arts & Humanities in Contemporary Asian Studies, Education, English, History, Media Studies, Performing Arts and Politics (choose three subjects).

(School of Agriculture & Horticulture)
01400 275572
BSc in: Animal Science (Equine), Animal Science (Behavioural Studies).

(School of the Built Environment)
0116 255 1551
BA (Hons) in: Architecture, Architecture and Urban Studies, BSc (Hons) in: Building Sur-

veying, Land Management, Property & Business Property Development and Management Construction Technology and Management.

(Department of Computer and Information Sciences)
01908 695511
BSc (Hons) in: Computer Science, Computing, BA/BSc (Hons) in: Information System with Management.

East London University
0181 590 7722
Degree courses in: Accounting & Finance, Animal Biology, Anthropology, Applied Biology, Applied Economics, Architecture, Art, Design and Film History, Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Biomedical Science, Biotechnology, Business Economics, Business Information Systems, Business Studies, Civil Engineering, Combined Studies (Technology), Communication Studies, Computer & Control Engineering, Computer Aided Design & Technology, Cultural Studies, Economics, Education & Community Studies, Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Electronic Systems Design, Engineering & Product Design or European and International Options, Environmental Monitoring, Environmental Sciences, European Studies, Extended Engineering, Extended Science, Fitness & Health, French German Spanish & Italian, Geographical and Land Information Management, Health Services Management, Health Studies, History, Human Biology, Human Physiology, Immunology, Infectious Diseases, Information Systems, Spatial Information Management, Statistics & Computing, Surveying & Mapping Science, Telecommunication Engineering, Third World Studies, Wildlife Conservation, Women's Studies and Women & Technology.

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01463 480480
BEng in: Civil Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Electronic & Communication Engineering, Electromechanical Power Systems, Mechatronic Engineering, Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical & Manufacturing Systems Engineering, Minerals Process Engineering, Chemical Engineering, BSc in: Civil Engineering, Building Technology & Management, Construction Management, European Construction Management with French, German or Spanish, Environmental & Social Values, Quantity Surveying, Estate Management Surveying, Computer Studies, Information Systems in Business, Software Engineering, Computing with Business, Computer Studies with Foreign Language & Business, Computing & Accounting, Information Technology, Information Technology with European Business Studies, Electronics, Electronics with European Business Studies, Mechatronic Engineering, Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Design & Electronics, Media Technology, Behavioural Sciences, Mathematics with European Studies, Computing Mathematics,



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No university offers yet or worried about your grades? The courses listed here still have places available

Continued from page 37

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BSc in Catering Management & Food Sciences or Food Nutrition, Food & Nutrition, Technology with Business Studies, Management Sciences.

LLB (Hons) in Law, Business Law and European Studies Computing & Information Systems.

BSc (Hons) in Computing (Software Development), Computing & Psychology, Computing & Statistics, Computing & Mathematics, Healthcare Information Systems, Management Sciences, Design (Including Architecture and Textiles).

BA (Hons) in Architecture, Creative Imaging with Design, Photography and Marketing with Fashion with Marketing.

BSc (Hons) in Architectural Computer, Architectural Technology and Building Conservation.

Promotion and Manufacture: BA (Hons) in Industrial Design, Surface Pattern and Transport Design.

BSc (Hons) in Textile Design and Product Design Engineering and Technology.

B Eng (Hons) in Computer Aided or Electronic or Electronic Engineering and Computer Sciences & Electronic & Electrical Engineering, Engineering Design (Mechanical), Engineering Systems (Control), Engineering Systems (Manufacture), Mechanical Engineering/Energy and Environment, Engineering with Technology Management and Textile Manufacture with Clothing Studies.

BSc (Hons) in Electronic Design, Manufacturing and Operations Management, Multimedia Technology, Music Technology, Technology with Business Studies, Computing (Software Development), Architectural Technology and Architectural Computer Aided Technology.

Health & Social Sciences: BSc (Hons) in Behavioural Sciences, Sociology, Computing with Psychology, Social Work, Podiatry, Health with Sports Studies, or with Community Studies, Midwifery Studies, Physiotherapy, Human Ecology.

BA (Hons) in Politics, Political/Economics or Contemporary History or Media Studies and Healthcare Information Systems Science.

BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry, Biology (Molecular and Cellular), Microbial Sciences, Chemistry, Chemistry with Analytical Chemistry or Biochemistry or Biotechnology or Chemical Engineering or Environmental Science or Business or Medical Chemistry, Catering Management and Food Sciences or Nutrition, Food & Nutrition, Geography and Human Ecology, Environmental Analysis, Environmental Technology and Accountancy with Environmental Studies.

Hull University
01482 466100
BA (Hons) in Dutch Studies, French, German, Italian, Scandinavian Studies, Spanish and Economics & Social History.

BSc (Hons) in Applied Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics and Mathematics.

B Eng (Hons) in Computer Systems, Electronic, Mechanical and Software Engineering.

London University
(Wye College)
01235 812401
Degree courses in: Agriculture Business Management, Agriculture and the Environment, Animal Agriculture, Horticulture, Horticulture Business Management, Environment & Business, Countryside Management, Rural Environment Studies, Animal Sciences, Equine Sciences, Plant Sciences, Environmental Science, Environmental Biology, Biochemistry, Biology and Business Studies.

Manchester Metropolitan University
0161-247 1035
BA (Hons) in: History of Design/History of Art, History of Film & Visual Media, Landscape Design, Theatre Arts (Acting), Health Care Studies, Applied Social Studies, Business Administration, Business with Leisure, Combined Studies, Creative Arts, Humanities, Primary Education (Early Years), Primary Education Junior, Secondary Education (Business Education Design, Technology, Geography), International Hotel Management, Hotel Management with Tourism, Hotel & Catering Management, Fashion Design with Technology.

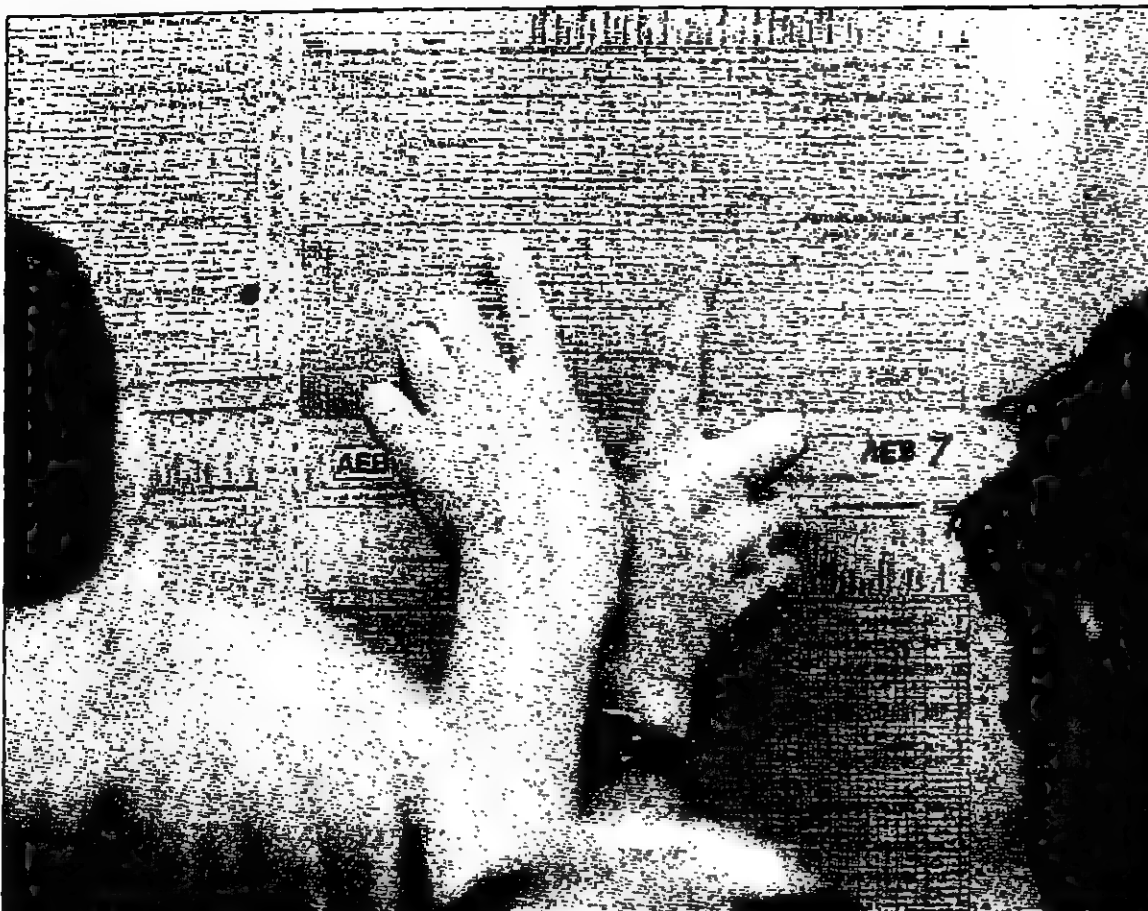
Matthew Boulton College of Further and Higher Education
0121-446 4545
BSc (Hons) in Applied Software Engineering, Podiatry, BA in Business Admin.

B Eng in: Modular Engineering.

Nescol College
0181-394 1731
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BA (Hons) in: Business Studies.

Nottingham Trent University
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BA (Hons) in: Clothing Studies with Textiles, Contemporary Arts, Knitwear Design, Television Production Design, Business Information Systems.



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BEd in: Chemistry, Maths, Physics.

LLB in: Law with French or German.

BSc in: Combined Studies, Environmental Studies, Secondary Education (Maths and Sciences), Hotel & Catering Management, Clothing (Management & Technology or Product Development), Clothing Engineering and Management, Applied Consumer Protection, Food Manufacturing Management, Food Technology, Economics, Information & Library Management.

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BSc (Hons) in: Building and Surveying, Civil Engineering, Construction Management and Environment, Electronics Business Management, Robotics & Automated Systems, Design Technology & Business, Computer Systems & Networks, Computing & Informatics, Computing, Mathematical Studies, Mathematics, Mathematics Combinations, Applied Statistics, Statistics Combinations, Statistics with Management Science, Statistics with Management Science, Business Studies, Public Policy & Management and International Business with Languages.

BSc (Hons) in: Business Systems (Modelling), Computing (Software Engineering), Computing (Networks & Communications), Computing & Management Sciences, Applied Statistics, Business Information Systems, Computing Mathematics with Business & Finance, Computing Mathematics, Building Surveying, Construction, Environmental Management, Quantity Surveying, Business & Communications Technology, Physics, Engineering Physics, Environmental & Communication Technologies, Physics & Instrumentation, Biomedical Chemistry, Bio & Communication Technologies, Mathematics, Instrumentation & Measurement, Mathematics with Biomedical Sciences or Gender Studies or Technology, Business & Technology, Science & Technology, Media Science, Urban Land Valuation, Property Development, Residential Development & Agency, Business Property Management, Minerals Estate Management, Environmental Land Development, Urban Land Economics, Countryside Recreation Management and Food Marketing Management, Electronics and Information Technology and Electronic Engineering.

B Eng (Hons) in: Mechatronic, Computer Aided Engineering & Design, Design & Manufacturing with Management, Engineering or Environmental Studies, Integrated Engineering with Automotive Studies, Materials Engineering, Materials Engineering with Management, Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical and Materials Engineering, Environmental Engineering with Entomology, Electronic Systems and Control Engineering or with Information Engineering.

Stockton University College
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BSc in: Biomedical Sciences, Environment and Development or Management, Environmental Technology, Health and Human Sciences, Science & Society.

BEd in: Primary Teaching.

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BSc (Hons) in: Mathematics/ Management or Secondary Education.

Trinity College, Carmarthen
01642 239711/213
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BA (Hons) in: English, Welsh Studies, English & Welsh Studies, Welsh & English, English & History, Archaeology & English, English & Religious Studies, History & Welsh Studies, Religious and Welsh Studies, Religious and Welsh Studies, Welsh and History, Religious Studies and Welsh, English & Theatre Studies, Theatre Studies, Religious Studies (in Welsh only), Archaeology & History, History & Religious Studies, Archaeology & Theatre Studies, Religious & Theatre Studies, Theatre Music and Media (Welsh only), Combined Humanities (Welsh only).

BSc (Hons) in: Health & The Environment, the Rural Environment, Information Systems Technology and Heritage Conservation.

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BSc (Hons) in: Diagnostic Radiography, Occupational Therapy, Nursing Studies, Adult Branch/Mental Health, BA/BSc (Hons) with Qualified Teacher Status for Primary Teaching: Maths, Music, Physical Science.

University of East Anglia
01603 456161
BSc in: Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Biological & Medical Chemistry, Chemistry with Advanced Materials or with Analytical Science or Business Studies, Chemical Physics, Environmental Chemistry, Interdisciplinary Science, Computing Science, Business Information System, Applied Computing, Computer Systems Engineering, Environmental Earth Science, Geographical Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics with Economics or with Computing or Philosophy.

BEng in: Electronic Engineering, Design & Technology, Electronics with Business Studies.

BA in: Linguistics (without a compulsory foreign language), French or Danish or German (all with Business Studies), Scandinavian Studies, History of Art and Architecture, Art History and European Literature, Anthropology, Archaeology and Art History, History & History of Art, Development Studies, Economics, Politics, Philosophy and Sociology.

University of Wales, Lampeter
01570 422351
Degree Courses in: Ancient History, Classical Studies, Classics, Latin, Greek, Ancient History & Archaeology, Anthropology, Archaeology, Environment & Archaeology, Cultural Studies in Geography, Environmental Management & Resource Development, Geography, Human Geography, English, French, German, German Studies, Modern Languages, Swedish, History, Medieval Studies, Informatics, Management, Church History, Divinity, Islamic Studies, Religion/Ethics & Society, Religious Studies, Theology, Philosophy, Victorian Studies, Welsh, Welsh Studies, Womens' Studies.

terms, Business Quality Management, Financial Services, International Hospitality Management, Economics, European Economics, Human Services, Policy & Politics, Politics, Social Sciences, Human & Education Studies, Media & Cultural Studies, Modern Languages with Communication Studies, Modern European Studies, Communication Studies, International Relations.

BEd (Hons) in: Secondary (Shortened) Maths or Science, Design & Technology.

BSc (Hons) in: Working with Technology, Computer Studies, Computing Systems, Electronic and Communication Engineering, Industrial Management, Occupational Health & Safety Management, Civil Engineering, Construction Management, Residential Development, Building, Architectural Technology, Environmental Health, Building Surveying, Property Surveying, Planning & Development, Facilities Management, Estates Surveying, Applied Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Biochemistry & Microbiology, Physiology & Pharmacology, Plant & Environmental Biology, Applied Chemistry, Chemistry, Chemistry with Study in USA, Environmental Science, Applied Physics, Physics, Physics in Europe, Sports Science, Statistics, Mathematics Methods for IT, Combined Studies in Sciences.

BEng (Hons) in: Engineering Systems & Computing, Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Electronics & Computing, Electronics Engineering, Media Communication Technology, Railways Infrastructure Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Integrated Engineering, Civil Engineering, Civil Engineering Surveying, Civil & Structural Engineering, Civil Engineering with Management.

Reading University
0118-987 5123
Degree courses in: Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, German, Italian, Agriculture & Agricultural Sciences, Food Science & Technology, Quantity Surveying and Building Surveying.

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01224 262105
BA (Hons) in: Accounting & Finance, Business Administration, Commerce, European Business Administration with Languages, Hospitality Management, Information & Library Studies, Communication with Modern Languages, Law & Management, Public Policy & Management, Publishing Studies.

BSc (Hons) in: Applied Biosciences & Chemistry, Applied Chemistry, Applied Physics, Architectural Technology, Architecture, Architecture with Language, Building Surveying, Business Computing, Computer Science, Construction Management, Consumer Product Management, Design for Industry, Environmental Science & Technology, Food Science with Management, Interior Architecture, Mathematics & Computing, Mechanical Engineering, Nursing, Nutrition, Nutrition and Dietetics with State Registration in Dietetics, Quantity Surveying and Technology & Business.

B Eng in: Electronic & Communication, Electronic & Computer, Electronic & Electrical, Mechanical & Offshore Engineering and Engineering Technology.

Royal Agricultural College
01285 652531
BSc in: Rural Estate Management, Agriculture and Land Management, Crop Production Ecology and Management, International Agriculture and Equine Business Management, International Agribusiness Management, Rural Land Management, International Agriculture, Land and Business Management and Farm Mechanisation and Management.

Scottish College of Textiles
01896 753351

BA (Hons) in: Administration and Textile Design.

BSc (Hons) in: Quality Management, Manufacturing Computing, Textiles and Fashion Design Management, Clothing Design and Manufacture, Textiles and Textiles with Marketing.

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BSc (Hons) in: Business Systems (Modelling), Computing (Software Engineering), Computing (Networks & Communications), Computing & Management Sciences, Applied Statistics, Business Information Systems, Computing Mathematics with Business & Finance, Computing Mathematics, Building Surveying, Construction, Environmental Management, Quantity Surveying, Business & Communications Technology, Physics, Engineering Physics, Environmental & Communication Technologies, Physics & Instrumentation, Biomedical Chemistry, Bio & Communication Technologies, Mathematics, Instrumentation & Measurement, Mathematics with Biomedical Sciences or Gender Studies or Technology, Business & Technology, Science & Technology, Media Science, Urban Land Valuation, Property Development, Residential Development & Agency, Business Property Management, Minerals Estate Management, Environmental Land Development, Urban Land Economics, Countryside Recreation Management and Food Marketing Management, Electronics and Information Technology and Electronic Engineering.

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Warrington University College
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BA in: Leisure Studies/ Business Management & IT, Sports Studies/ Business Management & IT, Media Studies/ Business Management & IT (Multi-Media or Radio Productions or Video Productions), Performing Arts with Business Management & IT.

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Civil or Electrical or Manufacturing Systems or Mechanical, Electronic or Computer Systems Engineering, Engineering/Business Studies and Engineering Design and Appropriate Technology.

Westminster College
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BTh in: Theology, BEd in: French Maths, Science in the Environment, Religious Studies and English.

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0171-911 5000
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BSc/BA in: Town Planning, Urban Design and Urban Property.

BA in: Modern Languages with English or Linguistics and two foreign languages combining any two of Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

University of Wolverhampton
01902 321000
BA in: Business Economics, Design Studies, Economics, European Business Administration, European Studies, French Studies, Geography, Human Geography, Language for Business, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Spanish Studies, Womens' Studies.

BEng in: Engineering Systems.

BSc in: Applied Chemistry, Applied Sciences, Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Biomedical Science, Biotechnology, Building Surveying, Business Information Systems, Civil Engineering Management, Civil Engineering Surveying (Quantities), Computer Aided Design & Construction, Computer Aided Product Design, Computer Aided Product Manufacture, Computer Science, Ecology, Environmental Management, Environmental Technology, Environmental Engineering, Food Biology, Genetic & Molecular Biology, Mathematical Business Analysis, Microbiology, Plant & Crop Science, Product Engineering, Quantity Surveying.

BSc/BEng in: Manufacturing Engineering.

Combined Degrees in: American Studies, Biochemistry, Biology, Biomedical Science, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Church Studies, Computer Aided Design, Computing, Construction Studies, Decision Sciences, Economics, Electronics, English as a Foreign Language, Environmental Science, European Cultural Studies, French Studies, Geography, German Studies, History of Art & Design, Human Biology, Human Geography, Italian, Japanese, Linguistics, Manufacturing Studies, Materials Technology, Microbiology, Philosophy, Plant & Crop Science, Politics, Psychology, Russian & East European Studies, Russian Studies, Social Policy, Spanish Studies, War Studies, West European Studies and Womens' Studies.

Warrington University College
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Degrees in: Chemistry, Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry or Business Studies or Psychology or Industrial Environmental Chemistry.

Civil or Electrical or Manufacturing Systems or Mechanical, Electronic

Interfering with third party rights

Regina v City of London Corporation and Another. Ex parte Mystery of the Barbers of London

Before Mr Justice Dyson
[Judgment May 24]

A local authority which carried out development in accordance with planning permission on land it had acquired for planning purposes was authorised to interfere with third party rights where it subsequently redeveloped the site in accordance with planning permission.

Mr Justice Dyson so stated in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application by the Mystery of the Barbers of London for judicial review of a decision by the Mayor and Commonality and the Citizens of London that section 237(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 authorised interference with the applicant's right to light.

The local authority, the City of London, had acquired land piecemeal by compulsory purchase and acquisition. It granted a building lease to Royal London Mutual Insurance Society to construct Shelley House. It also granted land to the applicant and covenanted not to erect anything that would obstruct the passage of light.

The local authority decided to redevelop for commercial purposes, intending to demolish the old Shelley House and allow a new one to be built. Planning permission was granted. The redevelopment would interfere with the right to light enjoyed by the applicant's land. The local authority decided that section 237(1) of the 1990 Act authorised such interference and the applicant's consent was not required.

Section 237 of the 1990 Act provided: "(1) ... the erection, construction or carrying out or maintenance of any building or work on land which has been acquired or appropriated by a local authority for planning purposes (whether done by the local au-

thority or by a person deriving title under them) is authorised by virtue of this section if it is done in accordance with planning permission, notwithstanding that it involves - (a) interference with an interest or right in which this section applies...

"(2) ... the interests and rights in which this section applies are any easement, liberty, privilege, right or advantage annexed to land and adversely affecting other land, including any natural right to support."

Mr John Howell, QC and Mr Jonathan Karas for the applicant; Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC and Mr Thomas Hill for the City of London; Mr Malcolm Spence, QC and Mr Thomas Clegg for Royal London Mutual.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that it was clear that the object of subsection (1) was to provide local authorities carrying out their statutory function with a defence to claims by third parties for interference with certain private law rights. It seemed that the true meaning of the phrase "in accordance with planning permission" was the subject of previous decision.

Mr Howell submitted that section 237(1) did not have the effect alleged since on its true construction: (a) it ceased to apply once the original purpose for which the local authority acquired the land had been achieved; alternatively (b) the statutory authority to interfere with third party rights did not apply where those rights had been granted by the local authority itself. The result of the statutory provision in cases of acquisition of land was limited to situations where a local authority acquired land which was already subject to such third party rights.

On the first issue, the respondents argued that the language of section 237(1) was plain and unambiguous. There was no reason to construe "for planning purposes" as restricted to the initial planning scheme for which the land was acquired or appro-

riated. That phrase was quite general.

In his Lordship's judgment, the applicant sought to construe the words "acquired for planning purposes" too narrowly. The words were quite general and were used to distinguish the case from one where acquisition, or appropriation, was made for other purposes, for example, where a local authority acquired land to hold for investment purposes, or for educational purposes.

The concept of an initial development followed by cyclical redevelopment of the site was hardly esoteric. If Parliament had intended to restrict the application of section 237(1) to the first development, which might well be the particular development that the local authority had in mind when acquiring or appropriating the land, then different language would have been used.

There was nothing surprising about the wider interpretation. The statutory objective which underlay section 237 was that, provided the work was done in accordance with planning permission, and subject to payment of compensation, a local authority should be permitted to interfere with third party rights.

A balance had to be struck between giving local authorities freedom to develop land held for planning purposes, and the need to protect the interests of third parties whose rights were interfered with by local authority development.

Section 237(1) was the result of that balancing exercise. It was difficult to see what rational basis there could be for restricting the operation of section 237(1) to the first development after acquisition or appropriation.

His Lordship was not persuaded by examples that the wider interpretation might lead to results which were so unreasonable that they could not have been intended by Parliament.

Mr Howell placed great emphasis on the fact that successors in

title to the local authority could enjoy the fruits of section 237(1). His Lordship did not have to consider in the present case whether, as a matter of construction, there were any, and if so what, limits to the application of section 237(1) to those who derived title under the acquiring or appropriating local authority.

His Lordship's provisional view was that, in order to attract the immunity conferred by the subsection, the work done, whether by the local authority or the person deriving title under it, must be related in some way to the planning purposes for which the land was acquired. That would explain why, even in cases where the work was done by a person deriving title, Parliament had decided that the local authority should have contingent ability to pay compensation.

On the second issue, Mr Howell submitted that it was one thing for the local authority to be able to interfere with third party rights to which the land was already subject when it acquired or appropriated the land, but Parliament could not have intended that a local authority which had itself granted such rights could subsequently override them. There was no reasonable requirement for an owner of land to be able to treat as ineffective third party rights which he himself had lawfully granted.

The respondents argued that the language of section 237(1) and (2) was plain, and there was no need or justification for the introduction of words of qualification which, on the applicant's argument, would have to be added.

His Lordship could not accept Mr Howell's argument. He was seeking to cut down section 237(1) and (2) by interpreting them as if additional words were present, which had the effect of excluding from the scope of the statute rights granted by the local authority itself. Where statutory words were clear and their literal meaning did not lead to an absurdity, then they were to be given their natural and ordinary meaning. It was not permissible in such circumstances to read into the statute words that were not there.

The words were clear and did not lead to an absurdity. It was not absurd that Parliament should have intended to give local authorities the power to override third party rights granted by themselves, if, acting bona fide, they thought that the public good would be served best by carrying out work on their land, in circumstances which would require those rights to be overridden.

Parliament had provided safeguards in that planning permission had to be obtained and that compensation was payable.

Solicitors: Glazer Delmar, Peckham; Browne Jacobson, Nottingham.

Regina v Family Health Service Appeal Authority. Ex parte Boots the Chemist Ltd
Before Mr Justice Tucker
[Judgment May 24]

A shopping and leisure centre development could be a neighbourhood for the purposes of regulation 4(4) of the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations (SI 1992 No 662) even though no one would be living there.

Mr Justice Tucker so held in the Queen's Bench Division when granting the application of Boots the Chemist Ltd for judicial review of the decision of the Family Health Service Appeal Authority on May 1, 1995 not to grant the applicant consent to establish a pharmacy and provide pharmaceutical services at Cribbs Causeway, Bristol, a newly developed regional shopping centre.

In order to be able to provide pharmaceutical services in their proposed store at the centre Boots had to obtain a grant from the Avon Family Health Services Authority of the right to be included in its pharmaceutical list. The original application, made under the 1992 Regulations, was refused and Boots appealed.

Regulation 4 of the 1992 Regulations provides: "(4) An application ... shall be granted by the FHSA only if it is satisfied that it is necessary or desirable to grant the application in order to secure, in the neighbourhood in which the

premises from which the applicant intends to provide the services are located, the adequate provision, by persons included in the list, of the services ... specified in the application."

Miss Judith Beale for Boots; Mr Keith Freeman for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER said that the development, due to be completed in 1997, already had provision for a pharmacy within a food superstore. The original application had been rejected on the ground, inter alia, that it was neither necessary nor desirable because the neighbourhood was adequately served by existing pharmacies. Avon FHSa had defined the relevant neighbourhood as much larger than the area of the shopping centre.

On appeal, the respondent considered that a neighbourhood was an area within which people regarded themselves as neighbours of one another and that it could be defined by physical or social factors. People were unlikely to live in the shopping centre and it could not therefore be considered as a neighbourhood in its own right.

Before his Lordship, Boots had submitted that the respondent had erred in law by directing itself that a shopping and leisure development could not be a separate neighbourhood for the purposes of regulation 4(4). The respondent contended, inter alia, that the regulation had to be read as a

whole so that the key test was adequacy, that test called for the making of a value judgment best left to the decision maker.

In his Lordship's judgment it was not necessary for a neighbourhood to contain a residential element. His Lordship relied on *R v Yorkshire Regional Health Authority, Ex parte Surt* (The Times December 5, 1995), in which Lord Justice Russell, in the Court of Appeal, had said that the whole scheme created by the regulations was directed at protecting the interests of those who might wish to avail themselves of the pharmaceutical services. Lord Justice Thorpe had said that the relevant population was not necessarily resident within the neighbourhood.

The respondent had thereby erred in law and for that reason alone the decision would be quashed and remitted.

What the respondent had to consider was whether, in the light of his Lordship's judgment, the new shopping centre would be a neighbourhood in its own right notwithstanding that no one would live in it.

If it considered that there would be a new neighbourhood created by the new decision then it should go on to consider whether it was necessary or desirable to grant the application in order to secure in that neighbourhood the adequate provision of pharmaceutical services.

In that context it should consider the rights of those who could be expected to visit the neighbourhood for the purposes for which it was being developed. That would involve an assessment of the likely numbers of visitors, the purpose of their visits and the fact that the majority of such visitors would be likely to have travelled for some distance and were unlikely to be resident in the immediate area of the existing premises providing pharmaceutical services.

In considering adequacy it would be open to the respondent to take account of existing pharmacies and to ask whether they provided adequate services for the neighbourhood constituted by the new development, bearing in mind the differing needs of the people who visited it.

When assessing adequacy, regard should be had to the needs of all those who might be expected to be in, not necessarily resident in the neighbourhood at any time and for whatever purpose.

The respondent was not justified in concluding that shoppers travelling to the centre would usually have access to services in neighbourhoods in which they were resident, or that they would be visiting the development at times when they could conveniently visit pharmacies in those neighbourhoods.

Solicitors: Mr D. F. Charlton, Nottingham; Miss J. E. Perren, Harrogate.

No obligation to consult doctors

Regina v North Yorkshire Family Health Services Authority. Ex parte Wilson and Others
Before Mr Justice Carnwath
[Judgment May 22]

When a pharmacist who was already on the pharmaceutical list of a family health services authority made an application to open additional premises within that authority's locality to provide pharmaceutical services, the authority was not obliged to hear representations from the local doctors or to consider whether the granting of the application would prejudice the proper provision of general medical services.

Mr Justice Carnwath sitting in the Queen's Bench Division so held when refusing applications by Dr Michael Wilson, Dr Neil Moran, Dr Peter Burnett, Dr T. John Donaldson, Dr Ian Lyall, Dr Pauline Carney, Dr Graham Gibson and Dr Lesley Welch for judicial review of a decision of the North Yorkshire FHSa on July 20, 1995 to allow Mr E. A. Goran's application of December 21, 1994 to establish a pharmacy in Donnington.

Mr Michael Supperstone, QC

and Mr Paul Nicholls for the applicant doctors; Mr Timothy Dunne for North Yorkshire FHSa; Miss Cherie Booth, QC and Miss Jane Oldham for Mr Goran.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the doctors had a practice in Donnington and had also provided pharmaceutical services for many years under special provisions allowing doctors to do so exceptionally to meet particular needs in rural areas where patients would have serious difficulty in obtaining any necessary drugs or appliances from a pharmacy by reason of distance or inadequacy of means of communication.

The contribution to the income of the practice from dispensing was significant. The profits not only benefited the doctors personally but also, they said, enabled them to improve the quality of the medical services. They would lose the right to provide pharmaceutical services if Mr Goran's consent was withheld and they complained that their objections were not given a fair hearing.

The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations (SI 1992 No 662) provided for the keeping of a pharmaceutical

list. Mr Goran was already included in the list for the area so that under regulation 4(4) he had to satisfy the FHSa that it was "necessary or desirable to grant the application".

The doctors submitted that the FHSa acted in breach of natural justice in that it declined to seek written representations from them with regard to the "necessary or desirable" question: it failed to notify them of the hearing; it failed to allow them to advance their case at the hearing; and it failed to allow them to respond to Mr Goran's case.

Although the regulations gave the doctors no express right to be consulted or heard, they relied on the general principle of fairness and said that at the hearing they would have made submissions about the detrimental effect on patient care which would follow from the loss of dispensing income.

Although presented as a case of procedural impropriety, it was not possible to separate the procedural point from the substance. The doctors' real concern was that the opening of a new pharmacy in the village would affect their income, and therefore indirectly their ability to sustain a medical service of the present quality.

Had the application been made by a newcomer to the pharmaceutical list they would have been able to advance their case on those points under express terms of regulation 12. If they were relevant in that context, they argued, there was no reason why they should not be equally relevant in the context of an application by someone already on the list.

His Lordship said that while he saw the force of that argument in abstract, it was not an argument which was open under the regulations as they stood. Prejudice to general medical services was an issue under regulation 12 and no doubt for that reason an express right of representation was given to local doctors.

Under regulation 4(4) there was no such express reference to prejudice to the medical service and there was no such right of representation by local doctors. That being the scheme of the regulations it was not open to his Lordship judicially to amend it.

Solicitors: Hempsons, Warrington; Willey Hargrave, Sheffield; Charles Russell.

Careful school not in breach

Nwabadike v Southwark London Borough Council
Before Judge Zucker. QC
[Judgment May 8]

Although the standard of duty of care owed by a school to ensure the safety of its pupils was a high one, a school which had taken all proper and reasonable steps to ensure such safety when an accident happened was not in breach of its duty of care.

Judge Zucker, QC, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held when dismissing a claim for damages in respect of injuries suffered by the plaintiff, suing by his mother and next

friend, Joyce Nwabadike, when he ran out of his primary school playground during the lunch break and into the path of a motor car.

Mr Jonathan Clarke for the plaintiff; Mr Nicholas Dean for the defendant.

HIS LORDSHIP said that it was the duty of the school to take all reasonable and adequate steps to prevent a child from leaving the school premises at a time when he should have been in school. However, it was necessary to strike a balance between maintaining security and turning the school into a fortress.

No school could ensure that accidents would never happen, especially when, as here, a child was determined to break the rules that were designed to protect him.

What was required was that proper safeguards were in place and implemented. Here the fact that there had been only one similar incident six years earlier was evidence that all proper and reasonable steps to ensure the children's safety had been taken and accordingly the claim would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Glazer Delmar, Peckham; Browne Jacobson, Nottingham.

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CRICKET: ENGLAND COACH CONVINCES COUNTIES THAT LEADING PERFORMERS NEED BREAK FROM CHAMPIONSHIP TREADMILL

Lloyd secures week's rest for jaded Test players



Lloyd: personal plea

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE need to protect and preserve England cricketers within the punishing domestic schedule was at last recognised yesterday, when four members of the team that played in the Lord's Test were rested by their counties at the request of David Lloyd, the England coach. It was a contentious development, predictably unpopular with county supporters, but it is the shape of things to come.

Michael Atherton, the England captain, and Peter Martin both stood down from Lancashire's championship match with Som-

erset, while Graeme Hick, of Worcestershire, and Chris Lewis, of Surrey, were absent at New Road and Southend respectively. On Tuesday, Dominic Cork and Graham Thorpe had missed one-day commitments for similar reasons.

Lloyd has a pro-active style of management and he acted swiftly when a number of players told him they were exhausted after the Lord's Test. It is not in his power to withdraw players from county cricket but the clubs have kept faith with an undertaking, given last winter, to view any such requests sympathetically.

This agreement, made at a full meeting of the Test and County

Cricket Board, followed the counties' rejection of a proposal by Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, to hand over control of such matters to the England management. Scepticism over county co-operation might, therefore, be misplaced, although, by ironical contrast, Essex this week rebuffed an approach by Illingworth to release Graham Gooch for international duties.

Lloyd, who was at Old Trafford yesterday along with fellow selector, David Graveney, defended the withdrawal of players in need of a break — something that happens by unquestioned routine in both South Africa and Australia. "As long as the

counties continue to react in this way, there will be no need for central employment of England players," he said. "In the past couple of weeks a number of players have come to me and said they are jaded. In general, they have asked me to speak to their counties and request a rest. I don't like going on to the clubs and saying it's an England matter and they must not play them but they have all responded well."

"Jack Russell is one who approached me after the Test and I spoke to Gloucestershire about him having time off. Eventually they had to play him against Durham because Courtney Walsh has gone back to Jamaica for a funeral, but

Jack is not captaining the side and, later in the season, he might be rested completely.

"My reply to any members who are upset by this is that when players are jaded they will not see them at their best. Atherton is tired, needs a rest. If he had played here today he might have got out for 25, been run of the mill, under-achieved. That is in nobody's best interests."

England's professional cricket circuit is so broad, so all-consuming, that this will be seen by some as a radical and divisive step, liable to erode the traditions of the county game. And so it is. Properly handled, however, it will help to insure

against the premature burn-out of leading players and consequent deterioration of England's international standing.

It must, however, be handled sensitively and there is a case for saying that Hick and Atherton, in particular, would have been better advised to rest from their two scheduled limited-overs games this week but to play in the championship fixtures. For one thing, this would have reinforced the primacy of the championship instead of giving priority to more minor competitions; for another, it would have offered the chance of useful, unburdened batting for two men who struggled for runs at Lord's.

McGrath consolidates for Yorkshire

BY ALAN LEE

WORCESTER (first day of four; Yorkshire won toss; Yorkshire have scored 312 for seven wickets against Worcestershire)

IT WAS not just the voluntary absence of Graeme Hick that identified the contrasting championship aspirations of the two counties at New Road yesterday. Yorkshire approached a difficult day in the business-like fashion peculiar to a team pursuing honours, their progress animatedly observed by enough travelling supporters to make up an exceptional first-day crowd and create a crackling crisis in the ladies' tea pavilion.

Worcestershire, whose ambitions this summer are now confined to two one-day competitions, fielded a threadbare side and will probably be beaten.

At first glance, it may seem that they emerged with honour yesterday, their attack nobly led by Stuart Lampitt, but this is not a straightforward pitch and batting is unlikely to become any easier. The bounce was mischievous all day and there is already appreciable turn. Richard Stemp, who started his career at Worcester, may now be the key to their downfall.

Yorkshire need a reviving victory. After an emphatic win over Warwickshire, they fell in a heap against Leicestershire at Bradford last week, and have yet to convince anyone — most importantly themselves — that they have the necessary stamina to take the title for the first time since 1968. They have the ability, though, and in a championship which has reached midsummer with no

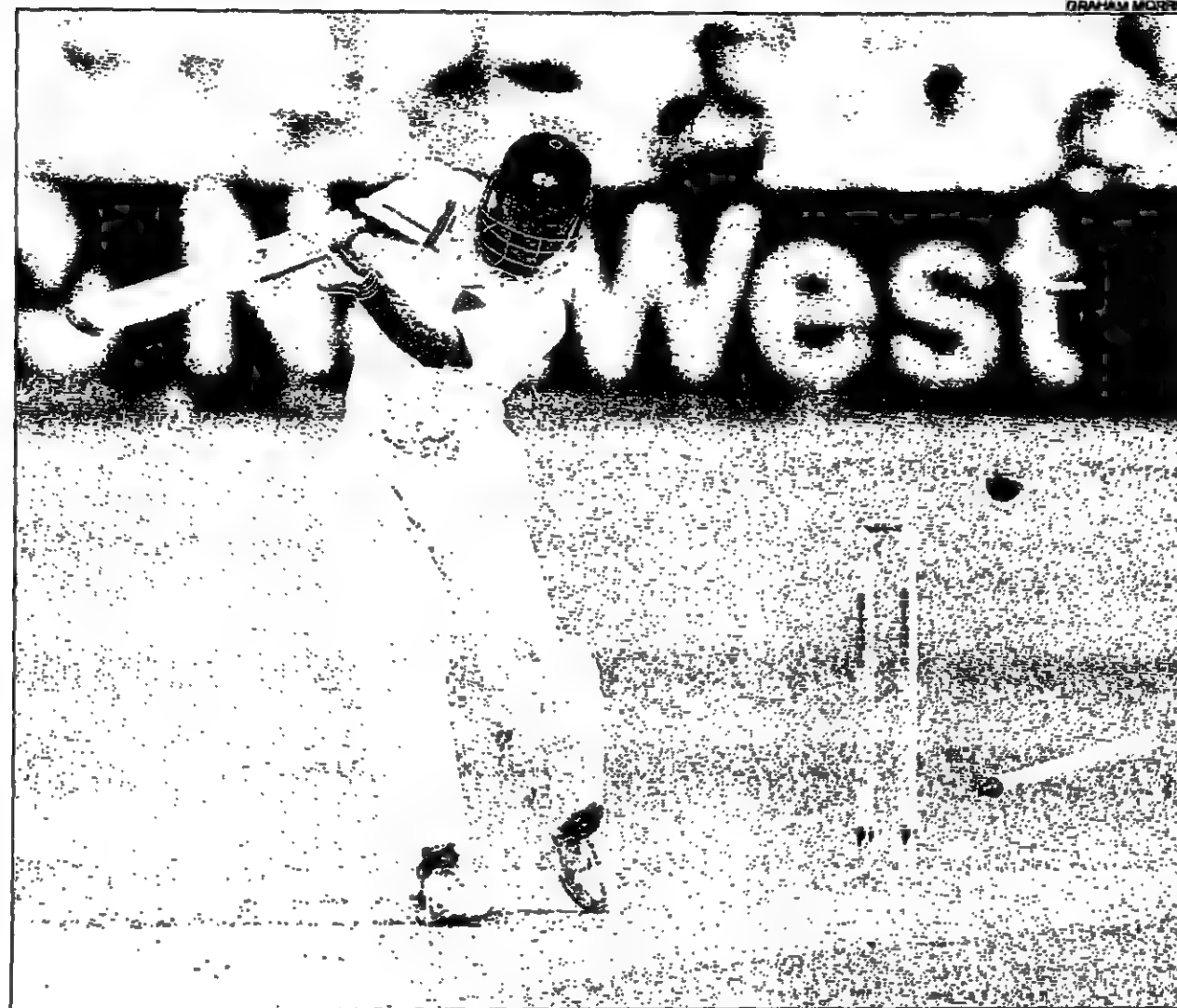
discernible shape they may not have a better chance.

Winning the toss here gave them an immediate control over events. Alamgir Shariyar and Scott Ellis made up the least experienced new-ball pairing Worcestershire have put out in years, but fickle bounce was quickly evident and Michael Vaughan departed with some baleful backward stares at the pitch after Ellis, making his championship debut, had followed a couple of grubbers with one that lifted unkindly.

Byas was reprimanded twice, at second slip and square leg, before Lampitt caught him in front with another ball keeping low, and when Moxon drove at a wide one — no blame to the pitch here — Yorkshire were perilously placed at 72 for three. They were probably unconcerned, for Michael Bevan was among the survivors, and batting suddenly took on an air of serenity.

Bevan is in the form of his life and the pitch held no terrors for him. Stretching confidently forward, meeting everything with the full face of the bat, he proceeded cautiously for an hour before sprinting to his half-century with four fours in two overs. The first batsman to pass 1,000 runs this season, he has made fifties in eight out of nine championship games — in the other, against Warwickshire, he scored 43 in his only innings. Even Boycott never began a Yorkshire season so prolifically as this Australian.

When Bevan was surprised by Ellis, the onus passed to Tony McGrath, whose technique is so impressive that a



Bevan, linchpin of Yorkshire's batting, loses his off stump to Ellis, a newcomer to the Worcestershire attack

maiden England tour this winter seems highly likely. He did not hurry, nor was there any call for it, and had batted through 55 overs for 60 when a rare error saw him leg-before to Shariyar.

A third half-century followed from Craig White, whose reaction, both arms raised aloft towards the dressing-room, was self-mocking — it was his first since the second game of the season. Raymond

Illingworth, who championed his international cause, was not here to see it — apparently, he is queuing for a haircut in Farsley.

Yet it would be as well if a selector arrived promptly on

the ground this morning. Darren Gough is taking his batting seriously, which is good news, but it is what he does when he has the ball in his hand today that will interest England.

Fairbrother hands out familiar punishment to Somerset

BY IVO TENNANT

OLD TRAFFORD (first day of four; Lancashire won toss; Lancashire have scored 373 for five wickets against Somerset)

TO WATCH Neil Fairbrother and Stephen Titchard in partnership is to appreciate how disparate two century-makers can be. One is short, left-handed and can score his runs at will through an uncluttered range of shots. The other is tall, right-handed and bats doggedly within his limitations. Both admirably fulfilled Lancashire's needs yesterday.

Fairbrother has now taken six first-class centuries off Somerset in 11 years, which says something about their bowling as well as his batting. On a flat pitch which should take considerable turn later in the match, he could improvise as gleefully as he chose. Of his six sixes, one was lifted over the sight-screen off Trump and the rest driven straight or pulled into the pavilion. There were also 16 fours in his innings of 144, made off 162 balls.

Batty, who had taken a wicket in his first over when he had Gallian caught behind, found that to bowl line and length was insufficient. It was almost exactly a year since Fairbrother made his last century — against Somerset, it need hardly be added — and that is too long for a batsman of his ability. The manner in which he scored his runs enabled Titchard to have no qualms about limiting himself to two or three main scoring shots.

It was not until well into the last session that he reached his century, made off 298 balls and including 14 fours. Turner might have stamped him off Batty when he had made 56 and he was helped by Hayhurst using Caddick sparingly, but his concentration was laudable. He batted all day, finishing on 116. There were runs, too, for Wadsworth, who was three short of a half-century by the close. He hooked and pulled as powerfully as Fairbrother, and there can be no higher praise.

Otherwise, in the absence of Atherton, Speak and Crawley, one rested and the other two injured, McKewen was given his debut. He was at Rossall School, which, it might be imagined, would nurture as many first-class cricketers as say, Tonbridge or Millfield. Yet the last old boy to play for Lancashire was Bob Bennett, now their chairman. McKewen was unfortunate to be out to a wonderful catch by Lee, the Australian holding a firmly struck drive in his follow-through.

Middlesex pair break Pollock's spell of domination

BY PAT GIBSON

LORD'S (first day of four; Lancashire won toss; Middlesex have scored 311 for five wickets against Warwickshire)

SHAUN POLLOCK, the brilliant young South African all-rounder, has taken everything in his considerable stride since bursting on to the international scene against England last year. He has been taken aback by what he saw on his first appearance at Lord's yesterday.

Could the imposing Mark Ramprakash, who defied his best efforts for Warwickshire on his way to a quite magnificent 164 not out, be the same upright young man who had made only 13 in three Test innings against South Africa before being jettisoned once more from the England side?

It was, indeed, hard to believe. Pollock scarcely got the chance to bowl at Ramprakash in the winter because Donald (twice) and McMillan had made such short work of him, so he was probably relishing the opportunity on a difficult pitch, slow in pace but offering plenty of sideways movement and variation in bounce.

Pollock, coping easily with the slope like the quality cricketer he is, could not have bowled much better than he did in taking four for 30 in three short bursts but he could not dislodge Ramprakash, who yet again made a mock-

SCOREBOARD

MIDDLESEX: First Innings
P N Wicket c Oiler b Pollock... 42
J C Harrison lbw b Pollock... 5
M R Ramprakash not out... 164
M R Ramprakash c Oiler b Pollock... 1
J C Harrison c Oiler b Pollock... 1
J C Harrison c Oiler b Pollock... 1
J C Harrison c Oiler b Pollock... 1
Extras (b 5, lb 13, w 4, nb 10)... 32
Total (8 wickets, 96.2 overs)... 311
R A Foy, R L Johnson, A R C Fraser and P C R Tatham to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-24, 3-114, 4-124, 5-138
BOWLING: Pollock 17-0-30-4, Small 19-4-57-0, Edmund 16-1-73-0, Brown 25-4-25-0, P A Smith 14-2-46-1, N M K Smith 13-2-30-0
WARWICKSHIRE: "A" J Miles, N M K Smith, D P Oiler, T L Parnley, D R Brown, S M Pollock, M R Barnes, W R Khan, P A Smith, M Eastwood, G C Small
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FOOTBALL: VENABLES DESERVES PLAUDITS FOR RESTORING ENGLAND'S PLACE IN WORLD ORDER

Wembley epic stirs memories of Turin

THEY tell me that lightning doesn't strike twice but, at Wembley on Wednesday night, no one believed that. It was almost a replica of the World Cup semi-final six years ago in Turin when I was in charge of England. We played as well as the Germans on Wednesday, we were the better side in extra time and Darren Anderton hit the post, just as Chris Waddle had done in Italy.

I was sitting there in the stand thinking "this is it all over again". It was there in the compactness of both teams, the desperate attempts to open each other up in defence. But, just as they were in 1990, the Germans are still one of the best teams in the world and they have made a real art of hanging in there.

The match was a privilege to watch, a real game for the connoisseur. There was so much class and there was sportsmanship, too. Germans picked English players up off the floor at times and vice-versa. Only Möller spoilt it when he rejected Pearce's offer to help him up and he paid for his lack of graciousness with the yellow card that put him out of the final.

Most enthralling of all for me were the personal battles that were going on all over the pitch. I thought Babel was the man of the match; he hit long and short passes and was always trying to play the ball forward into good positions. Gascoigne missed by inches, too, of course, with those two late runs in extra time and then there was Southgate. I read a few comments questioning why he had been allowed to take a penalty when

BOBBY ROBSON



on England's disappointment

Möller, in spasms, was brilliant, too, but he was up against Ince, who had a marvellous match. The marking and tackling of the German team, in general, was outstanding and they did great work in containing us.

I know I talked before the game about the necessity of taking any half-chances, but I really would not blame Anderton for his miss. It was an inch away, that's all. It made me think about Waddle's shot, how it looked to be going in right until the last moment when it seemed to hit a blade of grass and veer towards the post.

Gascoigne missed by inches, too, of course, with those two late runs in extra time and then there was Southgate. I read a few comments questioning why he had been allowed to take a penalty when

men like McManaman and Ince still had not taken them, but Terry Venables will have asked for volunteers and we should praise Southgate for taking it.

Terry should be praised, too. It is the end of his period in charge and he can be proud of what he has achieved. When I left the job after the 1990 World Cup, we were ranked fourth in the world. I think we slipped down to about 23, but on Wednesday we showed we are right back up there again.

During this tournament, he has got the team playing the football he wanted them to play. He had a vision and I think he reached that vision. I do not think the team could have played any better.

He went out in glory, too. He started with three at the back on Wednesday and that showed he is a thinking coach. There were not many coaches who would have done that. The majority would have started conservatively and then changed in mid-stream.

It is a shame he could not have carried on but he has obviously made up his mind. At least defeat against Germany has made it easier for Glenn Hoddle to take over. If we had won the tournament, he would have been in an unenviable position.

He will take over a team who have won back their prestige and their reputation. Terry never panicked. He got it right and England played their best football for a number of years. It was a pleasure to see it.



Venables consoles Southgate after his penalty miss condemned England to defeat

Germany stagger on approach to final hurdle

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

EVEN Germany's renowned resilience may be tested to its most extreme limits when they play the Czech Republic in the final of Euro 96 at Wembley on Sunday. Injuries and bookings have gradually mounted since their opening match — a 2-0 win against the Czechs 19 days ago — and Germany's initial 22-strong squad could be reduced to only 11 fit outfield players.

Berti Vogts, the coach, is so concerned that he has already asked Oliver Reck and Oliver Kahn, the reserve goalkeepers, in which positions they would prefer to play if called on. It began as no more than a jovial, half-hearted inquiry but, by yesterday morning, it had become serious.

"We have suffered some heavy losses and the rules do not allow us to nominate any replacements," Vogts said. "We have a great medical team, we have good doctors, and we put our faith in them. Anything is possible, we must remain optimistic."

Germany lost Jürgen Kohler, the defender, with knee ligament damage, and Mario Basler, the midfielder player, with ankle problems, early in the tournament. On returning home, they were soon joined by Fredi Bobic, the striker, who fractured a shoulder.

Jürgen Klinsmann has a torn calf muscle and Thomas Helmer, Steffen Freund and Christian Ziege sustained in-

juries in the victory over England on Wednesday. Andy Möller and Stefan Reuter received their second cautions of the tournament in that game and will be serving suspensions on Sunday.

Klinsmann, who did not play against England, is at least more hopeful of facing the Czech Republic. "The muscle is improving day by day and I feel I have a chance of playing," he said. "The doctor is pleased with the way it is responding to the treatment."

Mehmet Scholl, Klinsmann's team-mate at Bayern Munich, still believes Germany have the willpower and physical presence to win the championship. "We know the Czechs will be strong, they must be to have got this far," he said. "The last game, the final, is always special and I'm sure we can overcome all our problems."

Thomas Strunz, another Bayern player, spent yesterday relaxing at Wimbledon. Boris Becker provided him with tickets after visiting the team hotel to join in the celebrations on Wednesday.

Strunz had words of consolation for England. "It was all very tense, very nervous, in the end," he said. "England are a great team and, perhaps, we were lucky winners in some respects. The sides were very close and it could easily have been so different."

EURO 96
DAILY TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech celebrations have grown increasingly moderate the nearer to Wembley their victory has put them. After defeating France on penalties the team had dinner, went straight to bed and rose early, to travel from Preston to their new base in the St Albans Sopwell House Hotel, previously temporary home to the Dutch. Vladimir Smicer made a slight detour and flew to Prague yesterday evening in order to get married.

Smicer's wedding preparations have been subject to considerable press speculation, with concern among some commentators that his unwillingness to cancel the big day implied lack of confidence in the Czech camp. However, Smicer intends to return to St Albans tomorrow. If he is picked to play in the final it will be a notable achievement. Not only will he have missed vital training sessions and been preoccupied with matters other than football, he also suffered a bad head injury during the semi-final that needed four stitches.

Smicer, clearly an optimistic sort of fellow, claims he will be fully fit and ready to serve his country on Sunday. His bride, Pavlína Vízková, has high expectations, too. Her father was considered one of the best midfield players Czechoslovakia produced. Not surprisingly, Prague is still knee-high in celebrations. Football is the lead story on the news and everyone is smiling.

CAUTIONS: Nedved (3), Kuka (2), Bel (2), Suchoparek (2), Kadlec (2), Nemec, Ondek, Smicer, Nemecik, Kubik, Latal
DISMISSAL: Latal

AR

FINAL

Germany v Czech Republic
Sunday
Wembley, 7.0
BBC1 and ITV

GERMANY

After the uneasy outbreak of anti-German sentiment in some sections of the English tabloid press earlier in the week, it was time for sweet revenge yesterday. "Yes!" cried Express, the Cologne daily, on its front page: "Jasael!" screamed Bild, Germany's largest-selling newspaper, in similarly triumphant vein. Germany had at last exorcised the demons of 1966, when Geoff Hurst's controversial second goal helped England to beat West Germany and win the World Cup final. "Battle of Wembley — A Historic Victory", Bild told its readers.

Andy Möller's clinching penalty made sure that justice was seen to be done, too. Germany's leading sports writers felt that Stefan Kunz's disallowed header in extra time should have been deemed legal. "Just like 30 years ago," Bild ranted. "This time it was a German goal and the ball was in the net... but it didn't count. And that's a scandal!" Express, moving into overdrive, belatedly: "Just like 30 years ago, there was a whiff of a fix." It then reflected on the outcome: "But who cares?"

Objectivity, predictably, was difficult to find. After all, England had also played rather well. From the depths of its joyous heart, though, Express did finally manage to offer a crumb of comfort. "The Germans can rejoice and England has to grieve," it said. "Sorry Gazza, sorry England — you deserved to win, too."

CAUTIONS: Babel (2), Reuter (2), Möller (2), Häßler, Kunz, Ziege, Bierhoff, Sammer, Klinsmann
DISMISSAL: Strunz

RK

REPORTS: Alyson Rudd and Russell Kempson

HOW THE SEMI-FINALS FINISHED

Germany 1 England 1
(aet; Germany win 6-5 on penalties)
Shearer (3) Kunz (16)
(Wembley, attendance 75,882)

France 0 Czech Republic 0
(aet; Czech Republic win 6-5 on penalties)
(Old Trafford, attendance 43,877)

HOW THE QUARTER-FINALS FINISHED

England 0 Spain 0
(aet; England win 4-2 on penalties)
(Wembley, att 75,440)

Germany 2 Croatia 1
Klinsmann (21 pen)
Sammer (58) Suker (51)
(Old Trafford, att 43,412)

France 0 Holland 0
(aet; France win 3-4 on penalties)
(Anfield, att 37,465)

Portugal 0 Czech Republic 1
Poborski (53)
(Villa Park, att 26,832)

HOW THE GROUPS FINISHED

England 3 2 1 0 7 2
Holland 3 1 1 1 3 4
Scotland 3 1 1 1 2 4
Switzerland 3 0 1 2 1 4

France 3 2 1 0 5 2
Spain 3 1 2 0 4 3
Bulgaria 3 1 1 1 3 4
Romania 3 0 0 3 1 4

Germany 3 2 1 0 5 0
Czech Rep 3 1 1 1 5 6
Italy 3 1 1 1 3 3
Russia 3 0 1 2 4 8

Portugal 3 2 1 0 5 1
Croatia 3 2 0 1 4 3
Denmark 3 1 1 1 4 4
Turkey 3 0 0 3 0 5

GROUP A

England 1 Switzerland 1
Shearer (23) Tarkenton (83 pen)
(Wembley, attendance 76,567)
Holland 0 Scotland 0
(Villa Park, attendance 34,383)
Switzerland 0 Holland 2
Cruyff (65) Bergkamp (78)
(Villa Park, attendance 36,800)
England 2 Scotland 0
Shearer (53) Gascoigne (78)
(Wembley, attendance 76,864)
Scotland 1 Switzerland 0
McColl (37)
(Villa Park, attendance 39,000)
England 4 Holland 1
Shearer (23 pen, 57) Sheringham (51, 62)
Kluivert (78) (Wembley, attendance 76,798)

GROUP B

Spain 1 Bulgaria 1
Alfonso (73) Stoichkov (66 pen)
(Elland Road, attendance 37,005)
Romania 0 France 1
Duguesy (24)
(St James' Park, attendance 26,323)
Bulgaria 1 Romania 0
Stoichkov (3)
(St James' Park, attendance 19,107)
France 1 Spain 1
Djorkaeff (49) Camorero (85)
(Elland Road, attendance 35,826)
France 3 Bulgaria 1
Bianc (20) Penet (63) Loko (90) Stoichkov (69)
(St James' Park, attendance 26,976)
Romania 1 Spain 2
Raducioiu (29) Manjauin (11) Amor (83)
(Elland Road, attendance 32,719)

GROUP C

Germany 2 Czech Republic 0
Ziege (25) Möller (31)
(Old Trafford, attendance 37,300)
Italy 2 Russia 1
Casiraghi (5, 52) Tsymlister (20)
(Anfield, attendance 35,123)
Czech Republic 2 Italy 1
Nedved (4) Belfi (35) Chiesa (16)
(Anfield, attendance 37,320)
Russia 0 Germany 3
Sammer (58) Klinsmann (77, 90)
(Old Trafford, attendance 50,760)
Italy 0 Germany 0
(Old Trafford, attendance 53,740)
Russia 3 Czech Republic 3
Moskovi (49) Tetradze (54) Beschrestnykh (85)
Suchoparek (6) Kuka (19) Smicer (88)
(Anfield, attendance 21,128)

GROUP D

Denmark 1 Portugal 1
B Laudrup (21) Sa Pinto (52)
(Hillsborough, attendance 34,993)
Turkey 0 Croatia 1
Vapovic (83)
(City Ground, attendance 22,460)
Portugal 1 Turkey 0
Couto (86)
(City Ground, attendance 22,570)
Croatia 3 Denmark 0
Suker (53 pen, 90) Boban (81)
(Hillsborough, attendance 33,671)
Croatia 0 Portugal 3
Figo (4) João Pinto (33) Domingos (83)
(City Ground, attendance 20,484)
Turkey 0 Denmark 3
B Laudrup (50, 84) Nielsen (70)
(Hillsborough, attendance 28,951)

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1960 USSR
1964 Spain
1968 Italy
1972 West Germany
1976 Czechoslovakia
1980 West Germany
1984 France
1988 Holland
1992 Denmark

RUNNERS-UP

1960 Yugoslavia
1964 USSR
1968 Yugoslavia
1972 USSR
1976 West Germany
1980 Belgium
1984 Spain
1988 USSR
1992 Germany

LATEST BETTING

1-5: Germany
11-5: Czech Republic
Odds by Ladbrokes

FOUL PLAY

149 7
Cautions Dismissals

LEADING SCORERS

5: A Shearer (England)
3: J Klinsmann (Germany)
B Laudrup (Denmark)
H Stoichkov (Bulgaria)
D Suker (Croatia)
2: P Casiraghi (Italy)
M Sammer (Germany)
E Sheringham (England)

مكتبة الأصيل

FOOTBALL

England possess host of reasons to be optimistic

ROB HUGHES



Football Correspondent

There were two very human, almost personal moments that illuminated Wembley Stadium on the night of England's dramatic exit from Euro 96. First, at the very beginning, there was a young woman standing in a simple white dress with a microphone, asked to sing the German anthem in front of more than 70,000 England supporters.

For an instant the old, dreadful habit of hissing and booing the opposing anthem was apparent, and then came the stirring sounds of a brave, operatic voice... a lioness in the den of lions. It so set the tone for the night, the silence from the English audience came so rapidly, that from then until the very end there was respect — respect from the crowd for the players, from the players for one another, and even for a referee who, by encouraging and allowing this to be a body-contact sport, surpassed the interfering standards set by his colleagues in 28 matches before him.

In essence, it was the theatre of football as it should be. And when, come the end, one had to make do with that wretched apology, a penalty shoot-out, to separate equals, the second really touching human moment arrived.

Terry Venables, his own despondency making him appear momentarily like an abandoned coat over an armchair, suddenly began to run towards Gareth Southgate, who had the misfortune to have his penalty saved. Venables cupped the young man's face in his hands, the coach telling the player to look ahead, to realise that he had his whole football life ahead of him, and that a missed penalty was far from a crime.

By morning so many people, instant experts and new converts to the patriotic passion that had built up with England's improving performances, were asking: Why penalties? Why did England fail compared to the Germans? Was there no practised efficiency to compare to the almighty German team, which does not lose penalty shoot-outs? Think of it this way, Venables, in his last days as the mentor of the England players, could have spent

hours detailing his entire squad to practise penalties. If the players had, they might have become the hottest and most redundant penalty takers in the tournament.

It should be a basic skill, striking a ball from the penalty spot into a goal at 12 paces. Why, you would expect full-time professionals to demon-

'Who would be a football supporter, if this is what happens? A lost semi-final, and I feel bereft, abandoned, lonely. Where did everybody go?'

Lynne Truss on the end of the affair, page 18

strate the art five times out of six. That, as the scoresheet shows, is precisely what England achieved: Germany, just as strong of nerve, just as powerful and as practised, went one penalty kick better: the perfect six out of six.

But Venables, rightly, had other priorities with his precious training days at Bisham Abbey. He had to mould teamwork to defy the predictions that England, through lack of technical guile, could not cope with the best on the Continent. He had to guide his chosen players to be so adaptable during play that they could change from 3-5-1-1 to 4-4-2. They had done that in

reverse against Spain (incidentally, when the penalty shoot-out appeared, from an English perspective, such a fine thing). They had surprised Germany with the fluidity and the tactical acumen of Wednesday night, and though Germany ultimately won, Bertie Vogts, their coach, admitted that he envies the England team one thing: its youth.

Vogts concurs with Venables that players such as Steve McManaman and Darren Anderton are attacking prospects you can mould into a real future. The Neville brothers, Sol Campbell, Robbie Fowler, Nick Barmby and Jamie Redknapp are all favoured fledglings of Venables, there to be handed over for progression under Glenn Hoddle.

So there is hope out of despondency. Bobby Charlton, one of the lions of 1966, said yesterday that he never expected to feel this excited, or this gratified, by the class of '96. As he lunched in London with Pelé, he heard the world's greatest footballer of all time say that two players, two goals, had lifted the tournament in his eyes.

Pelé picked out Paul Gascoigne's exotic goal against Scotland and the cunning chip by Karel Poborski, of the Czech Republic, against Portugal. Charlton and Pelé admired the manliness of England versus Germany, the atmosphere of mutual respect, the moments of that match which finally transcended much of the organised boredom which had taken over the tournament.

Pelé, especially, was thrilled to be back at Wembley, a stadium in which there was order without fences and where the atmosphere reached out to embrace anyone who has a soul for the game. When he left, he was not to know that in Brighton a Russian student had been knifed, having been mistaken for a German. This dire end to the night, almost to the tournament, brought a lament that a pathetic football match was not worth such "hooliganism". How wrong: the football was anything but pathetic, the individual with the knife was. One cannot go on blaming a simple game for the sickness in society.

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Uefa will consider any ideas that will spare players such as Southgate the agony of missing in a penalty shoot-out. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird

Johansson ready to rewrite penalty clause

After the disappointment and despair of England's defeat, Peter Ball considers alternatives to the dreaded shoot-out

Lennart Johansson and the whole of England were agreed on one thing yesterday — penalty shoot-outs are no way to settle a semi-final. Johansson, the president of Uefa, European football's governing body, said that if there were alternatives he would look at them, but then challenged his listeners to come up with a viable replacement.

Inventive readers of *The Times* responded by coming up with a sheaf of alternatives — although one non-lover of football suggested that, instead of having the match, teams could save a lot of time by going straight to penalties.

Most were not so cynical and suggestions could be divided into four areas: variations of the present system; an alternative scoring system so that if goals are level, corners, perhaps, come into play; taking earlier results into account; or changing the game itself, to make a result in normal time more likely.

What is clear is that the "golden goal" concept has been a complete fiasco. Of the four matches which ended

level, only England and Germany, and to a lesser extent England and Spain, went gloriously for a win in extra time; elsewhere cravenness ruled.

The original theory behind the golden goal, however, of playing until someone scores, might work. It has its disadvantages — some teams would still wait for their opponents to make a mistake, and if a game went on much beyond the two hours, it would leave the winning team in poor shape for the next match. A variant would have a player removed from each side every ten minutes, so that there would be more space for the attackers, although whether they would be fit enough to take advantage is another matter.

Several readers suggested that taking the penalties either before the game, or before extra time would be preferable, thereby encouraging one side, the side that had lost the

shoot-out, to have a real go at winning. It would certainly take some of the guilt away from the man who missed, but one fears that it would just encourage the team that won to defend even more tightly. The former North American Soccer League system of sending players one-on-one

'The golden goal concept has been a complete fiasco'

against the goalkeeper received little support.

Abandoning the shoot-out in favour of a scoring system based on the results in group matches, whether by wins or on goals scored, has its attractions. If points were awarded for wins in all their previous matches in the tournament,

England would have beaten Spain but lost to Germany, as happened anyway, but France would be Germany's opponents on Sunday. The problem is, given how defensive the French were anyway, one shudders to think how they would have approached Wednesday's semi-final knowing that a 0-0 draw would be enough.

If goals are level, the number of corners won or yellow cards conceded could be decisive — except that counting corners would encourage a long ball and pressure approach. "Hit the corner flags," as Jack Charlton used to exhort his players.

The trouble, though, with all these systems, just like the shoot-out itself, is that you can fiddle with the rules as much as you like, but you cannot change human nature. If teams are too fearful of failure they will be negative. The other point to be made is that

penalties are not entirely a lottery; they are a test of nerve and technique. German success is not just a matter of chance.

When Germany beat England on penalties in 1990, Bobby Robson, the then England manager, said that his team had not practised penalties; Franz Beckenbauer said that his team had. The result was obvious. Reluctant as one is to make the point, Southgate's penalty on Wednesday night was a poor one, enabling Köpcke to save. Germany's six kicks all flew in.

There is a better alternative, though: it is an old-fashioned concept called the replay. Some may object that that is impracticable for a tournament of this nature. Not so. To have a one-week gap between quarter-final and semi-final, and another between semi-final and final, allowing space for midweek replays, would add only another week to the tournament. Hardly drastic, and the final could be replayed the following Wednesday if necessary.

Letters, page 21

Czechs revelling in their success

Alyson Rudd watches as the underdogs of Euro 96 prepare to have their day

TWO German nannies strolled past with their toddlers. Spies? How low can Bert Vogts' team stoop? It was probably quite innocent. St Albans City's Clarence Park pitch, which the Czech Republic are using for training, is, after all, right next to a children's playground.

The team were due at 5pm, but by 6.10pm there were seven television crews (one had had to pack up and leave), booms at the ready, two women and a dog, three groundsmen and a couple of schoolchildren — but no Czechs. "Let's hope they're not late for Wembley, then," commented a passing, no-nonsense mother.

At least the Czechs have the English on their side. After Wednesday's penalties, the supporters of the home nation would dearly love the underdog to succeed. For the Czechs it is all slightly ironic.

They are convinced they were the last team Uefa wanted to reach the final. "I feel

sorry for the organisers but they'll have to come to terms with it and expect us at Wembley," Jan Suchoparek, the Czech defender, said before the semi-final.

Suchoparek, who provides a constant stream of tongue-in-cheek comments, is one of four players who missed the game against France through suspension and who expects to be chosen for the final.

Four years ago, Germany lost to the underdogs, in that instance Denmark, and one would expect that Vogts, the Germany coach, knows the arrogance displayed before the final in Gothenburg must not rear its head this time. For the Czechs have nothing to lose and there is no better frame of mind than that when the stakes are so high.

It will be difficult for the Germans to keep their confi-

dence in check, however. They won, convincingly, when the two teams faced each other on June 9 at Old Trafford. Whereas Dusan Uhrin's side have grown in stature, though, Germany, notwithstanding their penalty-kick precision, have faltered and been lucky whenever their defence has foundered.

Should he need advice, Vogts might like to heed Uhrin's response when asked, ahead of the Czech Republic's quarter-final against Portugal, about the defensive frailties of his side after the 3-3 draw with Russia. Uhrin muttered that he expected the Portuguese to start with their strongest 11 players — unlike the Russians whose two substitutes created havoc. So the message would seem to be that Klinsmann should make the 35th-minute appearance many expected to

see in the semi-final against England and grab a late winner.

When the team finally arrived at St Albans City, Uhrin strode off the bus clutching his boots and inspected the facilities. They would do, said his expression. St Albans City have already played host to Holland during this European championship and in the past helped out innumerable other top European teams in preparation for games at Wembley.

Uhrin does not believe in overdoing the exercise. After that long wait only those players who did not participate in Wednesday's semi-final turned up for training yesterday. The rest were given the evening off.

Just like the Danes in 1992, the Czech camp is relaxed. There is no pressure, no regime. Just eight players jogged across the pitch. The sudden on-rush of under-fives that came to watch did not understand what all the fuss was about.

France preoccupied with World Cup

By DAVID MADDOCK

THE France team flew home yesterday, unperturbed by the chastening experience of penalty shoot-out defeat. They returned wiser, and without recrimination, even after an insipid European championship semi-final performance against the Czech Republic.

The reason, according to Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, was because all objectives set before the tournament had been achieved. The team had been able to quietly digest the lessons of Euro 96, and place them into perspective before the tournament that really matters, the World Cup.

The French will host the most important event in their sporting history in two years' time. Even after emerging as favourites after their promising early showing, they regarded the present tournament as nothing more than a dry run for the one that really matters.

"We are naturally disappointed at going out of the competition at this stage, and we did not perform to the level we know now we are capable of," Jacquet said yesterday. "But we are a young side, a side not of the present but of the future, and it was important above all else to gain experience. As hosts, this was our last competitive fixture before the World Cup, and I think it has been invaluable in our learning process."

The French, let us not forget, played some of the best football of the championship in the group games, dancing carefully crafted rings around both Spain and Bulgaria. But the pressure of the unknown in the knock-out stages inhibited them, and their feat-filled performances against both Holland and the Czechs showed that there is still plenty to learn.

Jacquet believes that his team have proved they can. "My aim has always to bring together a side for the World

Cup in 1998, and I am more confident that will happen," he said. "We have performed as a unit, and we are comfortable together now."

Jacquet could perhaps have lingered on a couple of more worrying aspects of the French performance. Firstly, without Dugary's cunning in leading the line — he was injured at the knock-out stage — they lacked penetration in



Jacquet satisfied

attack, a mortal sin at this level. Secondly, their slightly defensive 4-3-2-1 formation relies on progress through the central position, and lacks variation or imagination when opponents swamp the midfield, as did the Dutch and Czechs. Jacquet's 28-match unbeaten run proves he is right to be wary of the cult of the individual, but Ginola's width would offer an important alternative at such times.

One final question remains unanswered, especially after such an inhibited performance against the Czech Republic. It centres on the character of the young France team, and was addressed by Deschamps, the captain, yesterday. "French sportsmen have never really learnt to cope with the pressures and expectation at the very top," he said. "We always seem to collapse on D-Day. In the next two years we must discover if the team can overcome this problem."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Over the past couple of weeks, we have looked at some particularly dreadful hands that you might hold when partner has made a take-out double. Of course, it is not always so difficult. Often, you have fair values and sometimes have a choice of suits to bid. Let us consider the following hands, after your partner has doubled your left-hand opponent's opening of One Heart and your right-hand opponent has passed:

(i) ♠ 7 6 4 3
♥ 5 4 2
♦ 5 2
♣ K Q J 6

(ii) ♠ Q 4 2
♥ 7 6 4
♦ 5 4
♣ J 10 7 5 3

With two four-card suits, one of which is a major, you should always respond in the major. This is because partner is more likely to hold four cards in the major than in an unbid minor. Hence, on hand (i), you should respond One Spade. Partner is also more likely to bid further if you bid One Spade and, with your nice club suit, you would be pleased if he did so. Hand (ii) is interesting and would probably divide a panel of experts. You have quite a suitable hand, so could argue that, by bidding One Spade, you would encourage partner to bid again; on the other hand, if the bidding progresses quietly (say the opener rebids Two Hearts which is passed back to you), you would be better placed to make another bid if you had responded Two Clubs in the first place. I am for Two Clubs.

The situation is different if partner makes a take-out double of a minor and you hold both majors. Let us look at a couple of hands after partner has doubled One Diamond:

(iii) ♠ Q 7 6
♥ 7 5 4
♦ 6 5 4
♣ 5 4

(iv) ♠ 6 5 4 3
♥ 7 5 3
♦ 6 5 4
♣ 5 4

In both cases, you should respond One Spade, with an eye to future bidding. With hand (iii), you would welcome the chance to bid again and so should bid your suits in the order that makes it easy for you to do so; for example, if left-hand opponent continues with Two Diamonds and the next two players pass, you would compete with Two Hearts. With hand (iv), on the other hand, you hope that your partner will leave you in peace. However, if your partner forces you to bid by cue-bidding the opponents' suit or perhaps making a further take-out double at a higher level, you would still prefer to have bid spades first, so that you can bid hearts the next time, thus offering a choice at the minimum level. The lesson is, unlike when responding to an opening bid, bidding the higher of two four-card majors is more likely to get you into a 4-4 fit.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HAMARTIA
a. Guilt
b. White geranium
c. School of female artists

LINCURSTA
a. The Pacific langoustine
c. Embossed wallpaper
c. A Northumberland nun

MORAINÉ
a. An edible tree fungus
b. A severe headache
c. A raised rock-garden

JICARA
a. Basque net-ball
b. A giant cricket
c. The calabash-tree

Answers on page 45

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Advantage Karpov

After his defeat in the tenth game, Anatoly Karpov sought to consolidate his lead in the next, against Gata Kamsky, the American grandmaster. Playing with the advantage of the white pieces, Karpov has adjourned after 59 moves with a slight advantage in an endgame of rooks and pawns. Black's main problem is that his pawn on g5 is exposed to capture and his king is awkwardly placed to lateral checks from the white rook.

Karpov took absolutely no risks in this game, but piled on quiet pressure which encouraged Black to make a couple of unforced errors. On move 54, Black could have played 53... h4, while, on move 54, active defence by means of 54... Kg2 would both have been sufficient to save the game.

White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Gata Kamsky
Fide world championship
Elista, Eleventh game, June 1996

Semi-Slay Defence

1 d4 d5
2 c4 c6
3 Nf3 Nf6
4 Nc3 e6
5 a3 Nbd7
6 Qc2 Bb6
7 Be2 Qd7
8 d5 Qe7
9 Rd1 c5
10 a4 b6
11 Nxe4 Nxe4
12 Nc4 Bb7
13 Qxd4 Bxd4
14 Bf4 Bxf4
15 Qc4 c5
16 Qc7 Rabb6
17 b4 Rcc8
18 Qf4 Bxd3
19 Bxd3 Rxd3
20 Qxd4 Rxd4
21 Bc2 Rb8
22 Rf2 Rb6
23 Rf2 Rb8

Match Score

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
Karpov 1 0 + 1 + 1 + 1 0 ad 5 +
Kamsky 0 1 + 0 + 0 + 0 1 ad 5 +

WINNING MOVE

White to play. This position is from the game Karpov — Ivanovic, Moscow (quick-play game), 1993.

Black, playing adventurously, has moved his queen over to the white kingside in the hope of developing threats against the white king. However, after White's next move, he had cause to regret this strategy. What did White play?

Solution on page 45

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Karpov — Ivanovic, Moscow (quick-play game), 1993. Black, playing adventurously, has moved his queen over to the white kingside in the hope of developing threats against the white king. However, after White's next move, he had cause to regret this strategy. What did White play?

Solution on page 45

Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

TENNIS

Congratulations Greg, you are now a true Brit

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99-100

ALAS poor Greg. Last year, Rusedski zoomed into the national consciousness like a newly-discovered planet. At last we had a Brit actually winning matches at Wimbledon! The Wimbledon crowd, traditionally starved of such things, and never to be regarded as a hyper-critical bunch, took him at once to their pink and mushy hearts.

How they squealed, how they cheered, how they loved him! And how Rusedski loved it and them! Would the man never stop grinning and waving and throwing his sweatbands to the crowd? True, Rusedski was actually Canadian — tush! Details, details! Here was a victorious Wimbledon champion who said he was British, and that was more than good enough for Wimbledon crowds. Come on Greg! Greg's grin got bigger and bigger: there is an animal called the megamouth shark, believe it or not, and that was Rusedski to a T in his golden summer of '95.

Our turbulent sister newspaper, *The Sun*, gave him a Union Jack bandana, and the way Greg wore it and won in it and waved it to the crowds as he reached the fourth round — well, let's say it brought a lump to the throat and leave it at that.

Fast forward to this year. Wimbledon has been upstaged by the football, and even at Wimbledon, Rusedski has been upstaged by almost everyone. No newspaper sent him a bandana; the *Daily Mirror* did not even send him a World War One tin hat.

In the first round he beat a Canadian called Daniel Nestor, which at least showed that our Canadians are better than theirs, but no one really noticed. We were all caught up with Tim Henman, who has overtaken Rusedski as British No. 1. After his first-day heroics, he overtook Rusedski in the field of Wimbledon love-objects. After all, Henman is British in a rather more British sort of way.

Yesterday, he was back on telly, finding more glory, while Rusedski was on No 14

SIMON BARNES



At Wimbledon

Court finding trouble. Rusedski came up against a kind of doggedly unglamorous opponent, who routinely blocks the way to the main courts and headlines and adulation. This was Brett Steven, a New Zealander ranked a little above Rusedski, 59 to his 65, who had already beaten him twice, once when Rusedski defaulted through heat exhaustion.

What we got was a rather numbing, attritional match, with both men fractionally off their games, and it went to the man who was off it the least. This was Steven, who won 7-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-2. "He played better than I did on the big points," Rusedski explained, which is precisely how every tennis match in creation has been won and lost.

Rusedski has mastered the



Steven: four-set victory

most important shot in the game, the service, and he managed another 30 aces yesterday, while Steven hit a mere four. But Rusedski also served 12 double faults and crucially, three of them were in the third set tie-break, on which the match hinged.

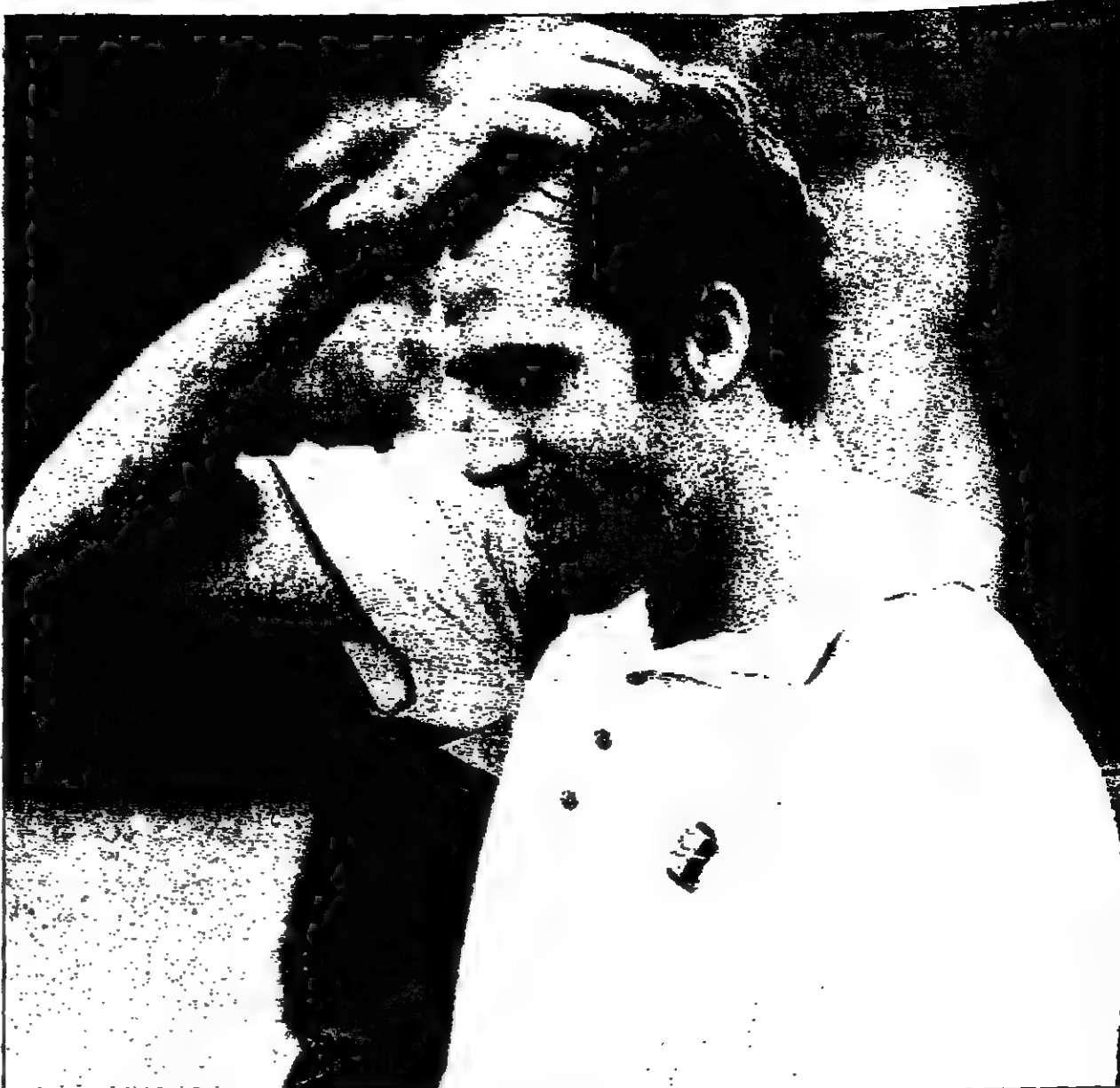
Tennis is one of those sports that make conflicting, not to say contradictory demands on its devotees. Golfers must putt as well as drive; biathletes must shoot as well as ski. You cannot reach the heights of men's tennis without mastering the service, but that's no good if you have nothing to follow it.

Yesterday, Rusedski had very little. Thought, touch, such things were alien to him. The best thing that happened to him was a bad call: it was his sense of outrage at this that allowed him to pick himself up and take the second set. He showed great heart in a losing cause, you might say. This is a not altogether unfamiliar script.

Instead of the Union Jack, Rusedski wore a traditional British baseball cap, and was old-fashioned enough to wear the peak at the front. Afterwards, he talked about Gazza, and poor old Southgate. "I'm glad I don't have to do that," he was very jolly and delighted about the "other" British players who have so completely stolen his thunder. Yes, it was a tough Wimbledon, but he reckoned he had six, maybe ten more years of pro-tennis in him.

In the end, there is a kind of selfish likability about him, despite the grin and the unfortunate episode of the Union Jack bandana. He threw sweatbands and cap to the crowd afterwards, a kind of abbreviated striptease, and they squealed with Wimbledon predictability, but one can forgive him even this.

Because, well, he did his best. In a difficult match, he showed heart, and after a difficult defeat, decent manners. Last year, he was a hero: this year, he is a gallant losing Brit. Greg Rusedski, consider yourself naturalised.



Rusedski manages a wry smile after his Wimbledon challenge came to a disappointing end on No 14 Court yesterday

Behind the scenes role suits Rafter

BY ALIX RAMSAY

FAME is a fickle thing. Two years ago, the cameras were lined up on No 1 Court to snap the latest hope of Australian tennis. Young Pat Rafter was about to break into the top 20 for the first time. He was, so the masses ranks of Australians hoped, the man who would, single-handed, restore them to the great days of Laver and Rosewall. The crowds loved him, the girls adored him and all seemed well with the world.

He earned enough money to move to Bermuda — "It was either America, London, Bermuda or Monte Carlo, and I wanted to be somewhere warm" — buy himself a house and a boat and enjoy the good life. The only downside to life was the lack of decent surf in Bermuda. Rafter is, after all, an Australian, and Australia

lians are born to surf... but it was not to last.

This year Rafter is back at Wimbledon, quietly making his way into the third round by beating Gianluca Pozzi 6-1, 7-5, 6-4. Not that many people noticed. These days, the only Australian on the show courts is Mark Philippoussis: if you want to watch Rafter, you have to search for him. Yesterday he was out on No 11 Court — turn left at the gates and it is opposite the Postcard by the sleeping ball people — but that is the way that Rafter likes it.

His ranking has dropped back to 77, a long fight with a wrist injury keeping him away from the courts for some of last year, and a general disillusionment with tennis keeping him away from the limelight for much of this. At the age of 21, he was a superstar and had started to

believe his own publicity. By 22, he was expected to live up to his reputation and now, at 23, he has learnt his lesson.

"I played a lot of tennis in '94," he said. "Going out there knowing everyone wanted me to win and with all those expectations, I didn't enjoy it at all. I guess '94 went to my head a little bit. I'm definitely behind the scenes now and, with Mark being the focus of attention, it takes the pressure off me. It's good to go about my work quietly."

He was certainly the quieter of the two yesterday. Pozzi, 31, is a battle-hardened old pro. His mug-shot in the media guide makes him look like a gangland hood, but, in reality, he is not to expect people to do well. Everything comes in cycles. The Aussies did well in the '50s and '60s, but, in the '90s, we are struggling. We just have to be patient."

Rafter now meets Marc Rosset, the No 14 seed, and victory there would put him through to the fourth round for the first time. Not that he likes to look at records much. "I don't like to set myself goals, at least not ones that I'm going to talk about anyway," he said. "I am playing well and I don't want to lose; we'll just see what happens."

Like many a British player, he suffered from the national desperation to find a champion, and he has some sympathy with his fellow young hopefuls both in Great Britain and back home. "It's good that there is so much money spent in looking for young players," he said, "but the key is not to expect people to do well. Everything comes in cycles. The Aussies did well in the '50s and '60s, but, in the '90s, we are struggling. We just have to be patient."

Kafelnikov maintains interest after dour struggle

BY ALIX RAMSAY

YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV must love Wimbledon — he spends so much time at the place. After his lengthy match with Tim Henman on Tuesday, he was back at it again yesterday, spending 3½ hours trying to reach the second round of the men's doubles. Teamed up with Marc Gollner, he finally did it, beating Bill Behrens and Matt Lucena 6-4, 6-7, 7-5, 6-7, 11-9.

The rate of pay for doubles may be considerably less than for the singles — comparing the two performances, Kafelnikov's hourly rate had dropped by a good £1,100 from Tuesday — but it is the only chance he has of a title this year at Wimbledon. As such, it was worth the fight, and yesterday he had to fight. In the muggy heat out on No 16 Court, he looked less than cool in his long white shorts as Behrens and Lucena dug in for a scrap.

There was a bit of racket throwing, a little muttering and a fair amount of marching around in ever decreasing circles pondering the unfairness of it all. In between, there were the sort of rallies that had won Kafelnikov the French Open doubles title and all in all it was too much for the Americans.

Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, the No 1 seed, from Australia, were having no such trouble. They got their campaign off to an impressive start, beating Dave Randall and Kent Kinnear, another American pair. Apart from a minor hiccup in the fourth set, it was plain sailing for the Australians as they won 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 6-1 and set about planning their route to a fourth consecutive title at the championships.

Like Kafelnikov, Lindsay Davenport gained some consolation from the doubles competition. Unconcernedly dumped out of the singles in the second round in straight sets by Larisa Neiland earlier, she was back on court with Mary Joe Fernandez a few hours later to exact some sort of revenge by beating Naoko Kijimuta and Yuka Yoshida, of Japan, 6-3, 1-6, 6-1.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



Can Karel Poborsky and the Czech Republic halt the German advance led by Matthias Sammer? The Sunday Times sports team prepares the ground. Plus, the most thorough analysis of the England team and its route to the World Cup

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Injury rules Rubin out of planning by King

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

CHANDA RUBIN, who has a wrist injury, will be unavailable for the United States when they play Japan in the semi-finals of the Fed Cup next month. It is an injury that also threatens her participation at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The United States captain, Billie Jean King, yesterday confirmed Rubin's withdrawal from the Fed Cup but said no decision had been made on her Olympic status.

Rubin was seeded No 7 at Wimbledon but withdrew because of tendinitis in her right wrist. She also missed the French Open and had to retire from the tournament last week in Eastbourne.

Rubin was named to the United States' Olympic tennis team with Monica Seles, Lindsay Davenport and Gigi Fernandez. If Rubin cannot play, her place will probably go to Mary Joe Fernandez.

Fernandez teamed up with Gigi Fernandez in 1992 to win the doubles gold medal and also picked up bronze in the singles. She was left out of the team this time because Rubin was ranked higher.

"It would be great to be on the team, but it also would be unfortunate for Chanda. She's had a great year," Mary Joe Fernandez said.

"I was disappointed not being on the team. Playing the '92 Olympics was the highlight of my career," she added. "It's unfortunate in one respect we have such a great country with such great players. Here I am ranked No 8 or nine in the world and I'm the last American. That's a bit rough."

□ Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, yesterday revealed the reason why he will, after all, defend his Olympic singles title next month. "Because I have to, otherwise they'll kill me," he said.

Rosset, the No 14 seed at Wimbledon, had previously indicated that he would not be going to Atlanta, but his gold was the only medal won by Switzerland at the 1992 Games in Barcelona.

RESULTS FROM THE ALL-ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's singles

Winner: £392,500

Runner-up: £192,250

Holder: P. Sampras (US)

Second round

P. Sampras (US) bt M. Philippoussis (Aust) 7-6, 6-4, 6-4

K. Kuipers (Slovakia) bt B. Black (Zim) 4-6, 6-1, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3

J. Kostecki (Slovakia) bt C. Wilkinson (GB) 1-6, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3

C. Poline (Fr) bt M. R. J. Petchey (GB) 6-1, 6-4, 6-2

S. Stolle (Aust) bt M. Lonsdale (Swe) 6-2, 1-6, 7-6, 6-4

B. Steven (GB) bt G. Rusedski (GB) 7-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-2

R. Krajcek (Hol) bt D. Rostagno (US) 6-4, 6-3, 6-3

G. Nandjivo (Cot) bt P. Bousquet (Fr) 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4

A. Volkov (Russ) bt M. Damm (Cz) 7-6, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4

P. Rafter (Aust) bt G. Pozzi (It) 6-1, 7-5, 6-4

J. Hasek (Swe) bt A. Connell (Sp) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4

J. Stoltenberg (Aust) bt J. Novak (Cz) 7-6, 6-4, 6-4

M. Naseri (Ir) bt A. Costa (Aust) 4-6, 7-6, 3-6, 7-5, 9-7

T. Henman (GB) bt D. E. Sengul (GB) 6-1, 6-7, 6-0, 6-1

Women's singles

Winner: £353,000

Runner-up: £176,500

Holder: S. Graf (Ger)

Second round

S. Graf (Ger) bt N. Baudano (It) 7-5, 6-3

N. J. Arendt (US) bt C. Powell (Ger) 2-6, 6-2, 6-0

L. M. Wade (US) bt A. Fucal (Fr) 6-4, 6-2

M. Hingis (Swe) bt R. Violette (GB) 6-1, 6-1

M. Tausch (Fr) bt M. Maleeva (Bul) 7-6, 3-6, 6-7

P. Hy-Soulas (Can) bt N. Zvereva (Bel) 6-2, 6-4

R. Dement (Rom) bt K. Kachwendt (Ger) 6-2, 6-0

C. Martinez (Sp) bt L. M. Raymond (US) 7-6, 7-5

L. M. McNeil (US) bt K. Po (US) 4-6, 6-0, 6-3

K. Stoen (Hol) bt K. A. Guse (Aust) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1

K. Kato (Jap) bt A. G. Sidi (Fr) 6-7, 6-3, 6-3

M. Pierce (Fr) bt C. Taylor (GB) 6-4, 6-2

E. Likhovtseva (Russ) bt K. M. Adame (US) 6-4, 6-3

J. Novotna (Cz) bt L. Courtois (Bel) 7-6, 6-3

N. Medvedev (Ukr) bt R. Hiriaki (Jap) 6-3, 6-2

L. Neiland (Lat) bt L. Davenport (US) 6-3, 6-2

Men's doubles

Winners: £160,810

Runners-up: £80,400

Holder: T. A. Woodbridge and M. Woodforde (Aust)

First round

J. Belloc (US) and L. Paes (Ind) bt D. Elgar (Swe) and L. Markovits (Hung) 7-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3

B. MacPhie (US) and M. Tabbutt (Aust) bt J. Eagle and A. Fother (Aust) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-7, 13-11

M. Oosting and S. Schabon (Hol) bt S. E. Davis (US) and P. Kilderry (Aust) 6-3, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4

J. Grubb and R. A. Rensberg (US) bt A. Kinnear and G. Mendt (Aust) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4

M. Gollner (Ger) and Y. Kafelnikov (Russ) bt S. Behrens and M. Lucena (US) 6-4, 6-7, 7-5, 6-7, 11-9

M. Knowles (Bah) and D. Nestor (Can) bt N. Broad (GB) and P. Novak (Cz) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4

T. A. Woodbridge and M. Woodforde (Aust) bt K. Kinnear and D. Randall (US) 6-4, 6-4, 6-7, 6-1

J. Palmer and J. Stark (US) bt J. Schwaninger (Aust) and D. Vack (Cz) 6-3, 3-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-2

T. Kempen and T. Nielsen (Hol) bt J. Elgar and P. Hasek (Swe) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4

D. Nagle (It) and N. Pietrangeli (Can) bt M. Damm (Cz) and P. Nyborg (Swe) 6-4, 6-4, 6-3

M. J. Seles and C. Wilkinson (GB) bt J. Delgado and L. McNeil (Aust) 6-1, 7-6, 6-0

T. Carbonell and F. Rogg (Sp) bt W. Arthur and A. Gussmann (Aust) 6-1, 6-7, 6-7, 7-6, 6-1

Women's doubles

Winners: £139,040

Runners-up: £69,500

Holder: J. Novotna (Cz) and A. Sanchez Vicario (Sp)

First round

P. D. Smylie (Aust) and L. M. Wade (US) bt K. Kachwendt (Ger) and J. Label (Arg) 6-2, 6-1

L. M. McNeil (US) and N. Taliziat (Fr) bt N. Feder and D. van Roost (Bel) 7-6, 1-6, 6-4

D. A. Graham (US) and M. Paz (Arg) bt R. Bobkova and E. Melicharov (Cz) 5-7, 6-4, 6-2

L. A. Davenport (US) and M. J. Fernandez (US) bt M. K. Kijimuta (Jap) and Y. Yoshida (Jap) 6-3, 1-6, 6-1

J. M. Hetherington (Can) and K. S. Rinaldi-Surtees (US) bt M. M. Kinnear (Can) and K. Stoen (Hol) 6-4, 6-2

A. Dechaume-Balleret and S. Testud (Fr) bt E. R. De Lorie (US) and N. J. Arendt (US) 6-3, 6-2

J. Novotna (Cz) and A. Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt A. Fother and K. Po (US) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1

S. Appelblom (Bel) and M. Oosting (Hol) bt M. Kachwendt (Hol) and S. H. Park (S. Kor) 6-4, 6-2

Barclays Bank PLC

The following change in the Barclays Personal Overdraft interest rate is effective from the start of business on 28th June 1996

New rate

1.45% per month (17.4% pa.)

Previous rate

1.48% per month (17.74% pa.)

BARCLAYS

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GOLF

Montgomerie in no mood for anniversary party

FROM MEL WEBB IN PARIS

COLIN Montgomerie played a tune that is becoming ominously familiar, but from others there was nothing but sweet music. If the first round of the French Open yesterday had been an opera, the star tenor would have been booted off stage and the chorus cheered to the rafters.

Montgomerie was celebrating his sixth wedding anniversary, but ensured that an evening in Paris last night with Elmer, his wife, would be a muted affair after a 73, one over par, that left him disgusted with himself, his game and, most particularly, his putting.

"I hit every fairway, but my irons were poor and my

putting was appalling," he said after taking 36 putts, three of them from 15 feet at the par-three 2nd at the French National course. "I'm getting a bit down on myself, bad putting has stopped me all year. The fairways are running, the greens are soft, so it's as easy as you'll find any golf course. Now I'm struggling to make the cut — it's ridiculous."

Somebody had been heard the day before describing Montgomerie as one of the three best putters in the world. He was having none of that. "They're wrong — very wrong," he said. "I'm nowhere near it. If I was among the top three putters in the world I'd

win every tournament the way I hit the ball. I've always missed too many short ones."

Somewhat surprisingly, the European No 1 seemed slightly ambivalent about taking steps to eradicate the problem. "I've not sought advice. I just get on with it, it's easier that way," he said. "I am probably about ready to talk to somebody about it, though, because I've had enough of this." Exit one Scottish golfer, hating himself.

Meanwhile, a host of players jockeyed for position at the top of the scoreboard with Costantino Rocca taking over the starring role. On 66, six under par, he shares the lead with five others.

Like the rest of the field, Rocca had to exercise his patience through a 75-minute delay when early-morning fog took time to lift. When it did, and Rocca eventually got on the course, he wasted no time, stamping his authority on the tournament with a birdie on the 10th, his first.

He had another birdie on the 16th from four feet, then dropped a shot on the 17th but immediately retrieved it at the par-five 18th with two putts from 18 feet. Four birdies in the first five holes coming home and a bogey and book-balancing birdie on the 8th completed a small classic.

He smiled his broad and contented smile and admitted that his performance in the Open Championship last year, his confident play in the Ryder Cup match and recent victory in the Volvo PGA championship had made him feel like a legitimate member of the big boys' club.

"I have been given confidence by my golf," he said. "It is a great feeling to play well. To win is the greatest feeling in the world." And so saying, he was gone; a man, it might be said, completely in tune with his game. Colin Montgomerie, on the other hand, was still out on the putting green battling with his inability to hit the right note or the right line, and on this day at least, signally failing.

Scores, page 45

Cup reserve Power shows her prowess

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

THE Curtis Cup at Killarney was won so the Great Britain and Ireland selectors cannot be embarrassed for the moment. This is just as well, given that it was the Irishwoman they did not pick who led the qualifiers for the matchplay stages of the British women's championship at the Royal Liverpool club, Hoylake, yesterday.

Eileen Rose Power, the 28-year-old former Irish champion from Kilkenny via Skibbereen, was first reserve for the Curtis Cup but she has not come to the Writral in a fighting fury. Quietly determined she may be, but Power is not a woman with an attitude problem. "I was disappointed not to make the team because I was in with a chance, but I've no point to prove," she said.

Mhairi McKay, the young Scot studying at Stanford in California, who played with distinction at Killarney, did, however, have something to prove, if only to herself. Not best pleased after an opening 82 in the worst of the weather, she blitzed round in 67, scattering birdies as she went. There were nine in all, including

four in five holes from the 13th, to come home in 33, four under.

Power's second successive 72 for a total of 144, four under par, was proof enough that she had her game in order. On a benign day with only a hint of breeze, Power cruised out in 34, three under par, with birdies at the 1st, 6th and 8th holes. She was also to birdie the 16th, the last of three consecutive par fives, but dropped shots at the 11th and 12th.

The former, known as the Alps, is a picturesque but fiendish par three of 172 yards, protected, as its name suggests, by sizeable dunes. There is also a cannily placed bunker and making par is an accomplishment. "It is a great feeling to play well. To win is the greatest feeling in the world." And so saying, he was gone; a man, it might be said, completely in tune with his game. Colin Montgomerie, on the other hand, was still out on the putting green battling with his inability to hit the right note or the right line, and on this day at least, signally failing.

Kelli Kuehne, the Texan who was the star of the first round with a 69, found the game more difficult in the second when she needed 80 blows.

SAILING

Gosling holds on to lift world title

AT THE fourth time of trying, Adam Gosling, of Great Britain, and his crew of David Howlett and Mark Covell on board Yest, won the Hackett Echeles world championship as Cowes yesterday after a thrilling battle with the experienced American, Jud Smith (Edward Gorman writes).

It was a nail-biting climax for the two crews, who went to the start line for the sixth and last race separated by just four points, and with Smith knowing that he had to beat Gosling and hope that at least one other boat did so too.

They started in a light westerly which suited the

American, and at the first mark Smith, in sixth, went round two places ahead of Gosling. The Briton then opted to go his own way down the run and went low, a tactic which almost lost him the championship as the two experienced at the leeward mark with Smith up to third place and Gosling down in eleventh.

At the windward mark for the second time, Smith was leading the fleet and Gosling had sailed superbly to be in second place around 30 seconds behind him. The positions remained unchanged as the two leaders went round the mark for the final time for the

beat that was to decide the championship.

As they scythed their way up the Solent, Smith attempted to slow his rival in the last third of the leg, sailing down on him and spilling dirty air off his jib in the hope that the trailing pack would catch up.

Gosling, however, held his nerve and crossed the finish line seven seconds behind Smith and just ahead of the third-placed Steve Wright, another American.

It was enough to give Gosling the overall title by one point from Smith on *Danger One*, who was crewed by Steve Bachus and David Rose.



Fighting on the beaches: Cooper and Glover get into the action at Weymouth

Battle of the bronzed blazes trail towards Olympic gold

Weymouth has gone volleyball mad. I was told on my arrival for the first day of the European beach volleyball championships at the town's Pavilion Beach. It all depends on your definition of mad, I suppose.

True, there was a fair-sized crowd of moderately interested onlookers wondering, no doubt, what a team from the landlocked Czech Republic was doing competing in a beach activity, who had hired the not-particularly-Brazilian-looking samba dancers, and what a "lifestyle sport" might be. Beach volleyball is one, apparently.

"It has great potential as a lifestyle sport," according to Ian Fairclough, the president of the Beach Commission of the English Volleyball Association, who is also one half of the British men's champion team. "It's fun, easy to play and accessible — although it is at the mercy of the weather," he said.

"You see some incredible athletes. It's the same sized court as indoor volleyball, which is six-a-side, not two, and played on sand — a

difficult surface because it moves. You need to develop what we call 'sand legs'." The qualification of a British women's team — Audrey Cooper and Amanda Glover — for the Atlanta Olympics has recently garnered the sport considerable media attention, not all of it favourable. It has been bracketed with other Olympic newcomers such as synchronised swimming. "People who comment usually haven't seen it played," Glover said.

"When they give it a go, they think it's really hard," Cooper said. "Running and jumping on this sand, they appreciate that it is a serious sport." Serious enough to have its own political infighting. Protectionism makes it difficult for European players to get across the lucrative United States circuit, but nevertheless

Cooper and Glover agree that there is no place like home. "If we can develop the tournaments in Europe, we'll have something we can go for," Cooper said. Glover added: "If we won the lottery, we'd set up facilities here to help people who are enthusiastic about our sport." And spend some time on Californian beach courts, too.

They are serious, then, but not too serious. "Most people come to the beach to have fun, which is why I love beach volleyball," Cooper said. "It's a great atmosphere to be playing a sport in — better than some dingy old gym. I can take my sport really seriously in the sun. It has a *Baywatch* image but we've used that as a method to get our publicity."

Spreading the word yesterday involved a great deal of posing for local media, which they grinned and bore bravely. The sun shone, a DJ played a lot of "lifestyle" music, spectators dozed contentedly and the council reminded us what an honour it all was for Weymouth.

Surf and volley? I can think of worse lifestyles.

RADIO CHOICE

The historical and historic

This Scepter'd Isle, Radio 4 (LW), 10.15am.

So the final curtain falls on an undertaking unequalled in British radio. I have not given *This Scepter'd Isle*, which spanned 2000 years of our history, the publicity it deserved. If you must have statistics, here are some to dazzle you: a run of 13 months, 216 episodes, total air time of 54 hours. Christopher Lee's scripts, models of the art of précis, have been read by the peerless Anna Massey, while Peter Jeffrey, a pillar of the spoken word on radio, read the extracts from Churchill's *A History of the English-speaking Peoples*. The concluding episode, today, is a fleet-footed summary of the previous 215.

Sonata, Classic FM, 6.30pm.

They said that Tartini was in league with the Devil, and they said the same thing about Paganini, too. It was all nonsense, of course, but it certainly helped to pull in the punters. The two violin virtuosos composed and performed some works that were devilishly difficult. They include Tartini's *G minor Violin Sonata*, more fancifully known as *The Devil's Trill*, and performed tonight by Matthias Trusler (cello) and Gordon Back (piano). The story they spread around when the sonata was first played in the mid-18th century was that Tartini wrote it after seeing and hearing Old Nick performing it in a dream. One waggy critic said that, while Tartini was alive, only he and the Devil could perform it; after Tartini died, the Devil alone could manage it.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat, and at 1.15 The Hot 20 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat, 6.00 Drive-in and at 8.30 The Mix 7.00 Essential Selection 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00am Anne Hignley 5.00 Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Anne Stirling Comfortably 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. From the Hippodrome in Golders Green, with the BBC Concert Orchestra under Martin Lovelady 8.45 The Daily News Steps, by John Buchanan. Read by John Mettles (7.10) 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 Ian Anderson Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.00am Christine Kane

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme incl 6.55, 7.00, 7.05 Racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl Video Review and News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mark, incl 12.30pm Moneycheck 1.15 Wimbledon 28, incl at 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Friday Sport, includes coverage of the Super League game between Oldham and Leeds 9.00am Plus sports news from the grand prize meeting in Paris 8.35 Sports Shop 10.05 Peter Tait 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Rieburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 8.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sport 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00pm Mike Dickinson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dorrill 4.00pm Nicky Horse 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, Bach (Suite No 1 in C, BWV 1065), Brooch, orch. Glazunov (Overture), Prince Igor: Russian National Orchestra under Mikhail Platinov; Brahms (Waltzes for piano, Op 39; Strauss (Winterreise, Op 48 No 4); Der Rosenkranz, Op 36 No 1); Vivaldi (Flute Concert in D, Op 10 No 3; Janes Sea, Suite, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra under Nicholas McGegan); Constant Lambert (The Rio Grande) 8.00 Morning Collection, Butterworth (The Banks of Green Willow; Academy of St Martin under Neville Martinov; Beethoven (Piano Sonata in G, Op 14 No 2; Richard Goode, piano); Poulenc (Les Biches; Arkostrian Singers, Philharmonia under Georges Preter) 10.00 Musical Encounters, Bach (Contrapunctus XIV, The Art of the Fugue, BWV 1080); 10.05 After the Week: William Bennett, flute; Mozart (Flute concerto in D, K314); Bachmann (Blessed is the man, Vespers); Martinov (Flute Sonata); Ives (Symphony No 2) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Benjamin Franklin 1.00pm Chamber Music from Bradford, Another recital broadcast live from venues in the north of England. Today's programme comes from the Carver Hall, Bradford, featuring Bradford produces All the King's Men, including Henry VIII (Helen Madam); Anon (Love under duress); Fairfax (Puzzle Coronet); William Cornish (A Robyn), Nick Is

RADIO 4

6.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing incl Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport, 7.35 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs, Writer Elizabeth Jane Howard chooses eight records to take to the mythical Isle (1) 9.45 Letter from Scotland in the second of a four-part series, Janice Forsyth explores the transatlantic connections between Glasgow and New York 10.00 News; I Was That Teenager (FM only) Tabloid television critic Garry Bushell relives his youth 10.00 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 This Scepter'd Isle: See Choice (LW only) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 The Natural History Programme 12.00 News; You and Yours presented by Chris Choe 12.25pm The Food Programme presented by Derek Cooper 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping 2.00 News; The Summer Serial: The True Story of Martin Guerre, dramatised in two parts by Guy Meredith from the notes of the 16th-century French judge Jean de Corres. With Sean Bean, Lesley Dunlop, Oliver Pierre and Jill Graham (1) 3.00 News; The Affirmation Shift 4.00 News; A36 Kaleidoscope; Tim Marlow visits Paris

FREQUENCY GUIDE

RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-92.0, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8, LW 198; MW 198 (12.45-5.55am), CLASSIC FM, FM 100.1-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 101.1-103, 12.15, TALK RADIO UK, MW 103, 108, Television, Smith, Susan Thomson and Jane Georgy

Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 8. Vertical Robbery

David Blackham who's of the bar cultivating a at his pile of coins he moves partial to a pint of Ruddles slightly harmless look. He is, offering a wager as follows County and doesn't mind places a stack of 5p pieces in — "I'll give you 5p for every playing the fool to fund it, front of him as he sours his 50p you can stand upright on has a habit of encouraging pint of County. its side on this bit of the bar" visiting real ale drinkers. Once a likely prospect is "Easy" they say thinking take part in a modest wager. is range he engages them in David must be a bit simple. (which he usually wins!) apparently harmless However David always When he's in predatory conversation, the weather, the walks away a winner. made our David takes up a price of fish or the latest How does he do it (without strategic position at the end scandal. As soon as they look shaking the bar)?



FIXTURES

CRICKET

Tour match 11.0 incl day of three FENNER'S: British Universities v Indians Britannic Assurance Championship 11.0, second day of four 1st one-day match CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Gloucestershire SOUTHEND: Essex v Surrey OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Somerset LORD'S: Middlesex v Warwickshire NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Derbyshire WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Yorkshire

RUGBY LEAGUE

Knock-off 7.30 Staines Super League Oldham Bears v Paris Saint-Germain Second division Barrow v Preston Panthers York v Doncaster Dragons

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: Ryder Cup Series Classic (Collegiate Park, Northampton) SPEEDWAY: Premier League (7.30) Boku Vee v Poole, Oxford v Long Eaton, Peterborough v Bedford. TENNIS: All England championships (at Wimbledon)

THE TIMES

SPORTS SERVICE

CRICKET

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On screen or off, Englishmen behaving sadly

This week has been hard enough on the nerves of the English male without bashing their exposed ends with a mallet. Men are locking themselves in bathrooms and refusing to come out. The words "penalty" and "Southgate" make them whimper and clamp their hands to their ears. But on the other hand it was undeniably a pretty bad night for male representation on telly last night: whoever does their PR is getting it all wrong.

"I quite like getting athlete's foot," confessed Tony to Dorothy in *Men Behaving Badly*, with a faraway smile. "It makes me feel wanted. You see, this little fungus has chosen me — Tony — to live on." While Dorothy was absorbing this rather startling information on BBC1 at 9.30pm, a video diary unfolded on BBC2, in which a *Chester* drugs detective documented the excitement of bashing people's doors down, and

his family complained he was never home. Even his athlete's foot wasn't sure it loved him. Simultaneously on ITV, *SAS — The Soldier's Story* told of a hushed-up Falklands War operation in which SAS men took a gun-ho sledhammer to Argentina, undertaking a suicide mission to cause explosions and spike the enemy's guns. Athlete's foot — however needy and appealing — stood no chance with these blokes at all.

Video Diaries: Chester PD Blue was a strangely depressing film. Evidently Chester has a terrible drugs problem, and Detective Constable Tim Roberts is a member of a "protective" team which lays traps for dealers, chases them in cars and bashes their doors down. This all needs to be done, of course, and to have real, wobbly footage of a sometimes glamorous world is certainly valuable. "Get your arm off

me neck!" yelled a man whose fortified door (with huge iron bolts) was taken away as evidence. When the team bursts into a house, it takes the precaution of smashing the waste pipe outside, so that flushed drugs can be retrieved. That's clever, isn't it? And also fun. Roberts took his camera into some pretty hairy places. I never thought to see a recital search on television, for a start. In the recent series *Airport*, the customs officers gleefully snapped those nasty white rubber gloves against their wrists (and a Colombian peasant looked glum), the door would gently shut and leave the next bit to the imagination.

Roberts decided not to show his family in the finished film. "Maybe I'm paranoid," he said, but it seemed sensible enough to me. In fact, wasn't it reckless to record the CID Christmas party? But this absence

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

of a broader picture — even of his own domestic life — was the disturbing thing about his diary. Just like the SAS men following orders, the footsloggers of the war against crime seem to focus too closely on the immediate they have no interest in the bigger story. Track down small fry and arrest them! That's the job. A long-term operation at a nightclub resulted in the netting of a tiny tiddler,

which cost a fortune in man-hours and surely solved nothing at all. This selective blindness was disturbing and it was hardly helped by those intense, late-night, straight-to-camera confessions that are the staple of *Video Diaries*. In terms of self-absorption, this stuff ranks with crying while looking in a mirror. "I'm tired, I'm fed up, I feel completely worthless," say people on *Video Diaries*. And I always feel like snapping "Well, go to bed, then, and turn the camera off." Roberts was studying for an extramarital degree — but it wasn't law or sociology, or anything useful. It was psychology. He was writing an essay on the unconscious. Oh dear, oh dear.

Back at home, the unseen wife and children grew surprisingly impatient. Roberts felt sorry that he couldn't satisfy their demands, but on the other hand kept up the extramarital degree. If it'd been his

wife I'd have left him. In fact, when he made his last confession into the camera — "This is me being really shell-shocked" — I assumed he had got home to find the walls spray-painted with "I've gone. I've been gone for weeks." But in fact his big news was a promotion, which would put him into uniform. While filled with conflicting emotions about leaving his chums, he tried on the hat for us to see. A very confused person, he was. "What do you think?" he said.

Expose the unusual downheartedness. It has been a very long week. On Wednesday night I aged ten years. And it doesn't help when the telly inadvertently rubs it in. Back at *Men Behaving Badly*, Gary and Tony talked about girly words and men's words. Girly words included "loo", "doobie" and "flipflop", men's words were "carburetor" and "penalty shoot-

out". Penalty shoot-out? On such a day as this? Ouch.

Against all this, it was nice to see Denis Healey in *The Travel Show* (BBC2) promoting the attractions of the South Downs — a vision of green slopes and scudding shadows, topped off with a chat at Charleston and a pub lunch at Firle. "Edna and I, come rain or shine, come walking here every Sunday," said Healey, indicating the Seven Sisters rising grandly. *The Travel Show* is not noted for its depth of reporting, but it was just a relief to see England's green and pleasant land without thinking of doomed football anthems.

After his walk, Healey visited a pub on the cliffs where the beer is brewed by a man called Stefano. Together they caroused in Italian, singing "Avanti popoli! Anzi popoli!" And it was very nice to see somebody so happy.

Kicking & Screaming, page 18

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (27770)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (Ceelex) (58041)
9.00am Breakfast News Extra (Ceelex) (2993577)
9.20am Prue Lett's Tricks of the Trade: Tricks of the Bread Trade (i) (7293194)
9.30am The Natural World: Gentle Jaws of the Serengeti (i) (7293194) Wildlife documentary looking at a clan of spotted hyenas (i) (Ceelex) (2428577)
10.20am FILM: A Yank in Ermine (1955) with Peter Thompson and Noelle Middleton. American airman Joe Turner travels to England to take up his inheritance. Directed by Gordon Parry (3697206)
12.00am News (Ceelex) (7813190)
12.05pm Going for Gold (s) (8093732)
12.30am For the Love of It: A Swimmer's Story (2934190)
12.35am Neighbours (Ceelex) (s) (4528886)
1.00am One O'Clock News (Ceelex) and weather (58428)
1.30am Regional News and weather (72362577)
1.40am Wimbledon 96 Action from day five of the championships (29538206)
5.35am Neighbours All bats are off at Chez Cheez. Karl faces a new medical challenge and Jo brings the house down on Melbourne Cup day (i) (Ceelex) (s) (978598)
6.00am Six O'Clock News (Ceelex) and weather (751)
6.30am Regional News magazines (913)
7.00am Top of the Pops The latest hits, together with exclusive live performances and pre-chart sounds and new videos (Ceelex) (s) (4119)
7.30am Future Fantastic: I, Robot Gillian Anderson assesses the prospect of intelligent robots (Ceelex) (916)
8.00am Big Break Jim Davidson hosts the snooty game show in which celebrity players put on behalf of contestants, with cash and prizes at stake. Tonight's pros are Steve Davis and Neil Foulke (Ceelex) (3887)
8.30am The Olympia Game Steve Rider hosts the new sports quiz with team captains Daley Thompson and Steve Cram, and guest Olympians horsemen, Ginny Elliot and gymnast Neil Thomas (2374)
9.00am Nine O'Clock News (Ceelex) regional news and weather (8312)
9.30pm Michael Buerk presents another chance to see some of the most dramatic reconstructions from the series (Ceelex) (s) (464003)
10.20am Today at Wimbledon Sue Barker introduces the best of today's play and focuses on stories in and around the courts (Ceelex) (s) (825111)
11.20am Cross of Fire Concluding the two-part mini-series based on the true story of D. C. Stephenson, the leader of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana (i) (Ceelex) (s) (417388)
12.05am FILM: Night of the Big Heat (1967) with Christopher Lee, Paul Giamatti and Patrick Allen. An alien life form invades a British island (4383766)
2.25am Weather (1277991)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
 The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the VideoPlus+ code for the programme you wish to record, and VideoPlus+ will automatically programme your VCR for you.

- 6.00am The Learning Zone: Open University: Control in Reproduction** (6134867) 6.25 *Ottoman Supremacy* (6113374) 6.50 *Pienza: Renaissance City* (3617428)
7.15am See Hear Breakfast News (3343683)
7.30am Smurfs' Adventures (i) (1661848) 7.55 *Really Wild Show* (i) (Ceelex) (7072461) 8.20 *Secret Life of Toys* (i) (7828866)
8.35am The Record (5724062)
9.00am Yesterday at Wimbledon (65428)
10.00am Playdays (i) (2441157) 10.25 *Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)* (i) (5597041) 11.15 *Camp Wilder* (i) (4016854) 11.40 *Counting Passions* (7339557) 11.45 *Secret Life of Toys* (i) (7828866)
12.00am Wimbledon 96 Live action from day five of the championships (8918654)
3.55pm News (Ceelex) (9083698)
4.00am Cartoon (8738003) 4.05 *To Me... to You* (Ceelex) (s) (3782206) 4.30 *Classics Explains It All* (i) (Ceelex) (s) (428) 5.00 *Newsround* (Ceelex) (3757157) 5.10 *Record Breakers* (i) (Ceelex) (s) (1585732)
5.35am Wimbledon 96 Live action from day five of the championships (45031799)
8.30am Gardeners' World At Barnstead, Gotti Hamilton shows how to raise new plants for next to nothing, while Bob Flowerdew finds a new use for his lawnmower growing strawberries (Ceelex) (s) (1356)
9.00am CHOICE: Blackadder Goes Forth (i) (Ceelex) (4954)
9.30am European Fantasy Football League David Baddiel and Frank Skinner are joined for a Euro 96 special by James Richardson from Channel 4's *Football Italia*, representing Italy, Andy Grey from Sky Sports representing Scotland, and Uli Gellert representing Germany (64519)
10.00am FILM: The Matrimonial Team Relates (10.00pm) A satirical comedy show (24408)
10.30am Newsnight (Ceelex) (227175)
11.15am Pilot Paradise — Are You Being Served? The first episode of the popular comedy series featuring the goings-on in the ladies' and gentlemen's lavatories of Grace Brothers department store (1142228) 11.15 *Welsh Lobby* (1142228) 11.45 *Are You Being Served?* (113596) 12.15am *Weather* (9731639) 12.20am *Film: Another Woman* (1985/788)
11.45am FILM: Another Woman (1985) with Gene Rowlands, Gene Hackman, Maureen O'Hara and Ian Holm. Marion, a middle-aged woman, has taken a sabbatical to write a novel. But sitting in her rented apartment, she is at first irritated and then fascinated by the conversations she overhears between a psychiatrist and his patient, which force her to reassess her previously well-ordered life. Directed by Woody Allen (Ceelex) (468664) Ends at 1.10am

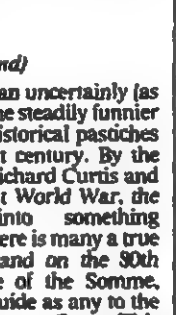
CHOICE

Future Fantastic
BBC1, 7.30pm
 It is easy to dismiss robots that have minds of their own as the invention of science fiction writers but a century ago the same could be said of aeroplanes, computers and space rockets. At the current stage of development, robots are fine for assembling cars or sweeping floors but are still under human control. It is when they develop intelligence superior to us that we should start to worry. The programme offers no shortage of experts prepared to stick their necks out and say it will happen. A professor from Reading University reckons that robots will be in command during the lifetime of his children. The age of the offspring is not revealed. But Arthur C. Clarke, creator of the super-intelligent computer in the film *2001*, has had second thoughts. He wants to put the date forward by at least 100 years.

Is It Legal?
ITV, 8.30pm (not LW7)
 Simon Nye's sitcom has been one of the brighter things on the comedy front in recent years and a new series is planned for the autumn. Meanwhile there is a chance to catch up on the original run. Summer repeats are usually a target for wrath, but this one deserves to escape. As the title implies the show is set in a solicitors' office but the law is only a pretext. This could be any office. Nye's characters may be types (lazy boss, bored secretary, accident-prone new recruit) but they are still under human control. The show may not have anything much to say and the humour is hardly profound. Never mind, it makes you feel good and many politicians would settle for that. Imelda Staunton's caustic senior partner and Patrick Barlow's bumbling office manager are particular delights.

Blackadder Goes Forth
BBC2, 9.00pm (not Scotland)
 The *Blackadder* series began uncertainly (as long ago as 1983) but became steadily funnier and more assured as its historical pastiches came closer to the present century. By the time the writing team of Richard Curtis and Ben Elton tackled the First World War, the show had settled into something approaching brilliance. There is a true word spoken in sitcom and on the 30th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, *Blackadder* is as good a guide as any to the tragic lunacies of the Western Front. This episode was the very last, for reasons which become startlingly obvious. Rowan Atkinson as Captain Blackadder, Hugh Laurie as the eternally squirming Private Baldrick, Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie represent different facets of class and command.

Friends
Channel 4, 9.30pm and 10.00pm
 The six twentysomethings are reunited in the Big Apple as the American sitcom kicks off a new series. It does so emphatically with not one, but two episodes on the same evening. You have to say reunited because Ross (David Schwimmer) has been away in China. Back he comes with a new girlfriend, or rather an old flame Rachel (Jennifer Aniston), for so long the target of Ross's affections, is not pleased. Herby hangs a plot, or rather a subplot, because this is a show that tends to chew big dramas. Similarly low-key fun derives from Phoebe (Lisa Kudrow) cutting the hair of Monica (Courteney Cox), and doing a Dudley Moore instead of a Demi. But *Friends* knows exactly what it is doing. The humour derives from character and the characters are deceptively well drawn. Peter Waymark



David Gell as Dean Collins (9.00pm)

9.00am Severnside Steamy drama series set in the fictional town of Severnside. A teacher (David Gell) grows closer when he discovers that his wife left him many years ago. (Telex) (s) (9139)
10.00am News and weather (Telex) (11935)
10.30am HTV News (Telex) (250697)
10.40am FILM: Frantic (1988). Thriller starring Harrison Ford, Betty Buckley and Emmanuelle Béart. Roman Polanski's Hitchcock spoof about an innocent abroad is kidnapped searching for his wife who is kidnapped after collecting the wrong baggage at the airport (1635935)
**12.40am FILM: Babylon (s) (2128494)
**1.35am The Good Sex Guide... Late (s) (770778)
**2.35am FILM: Cold Blood (1975) with Roger Hume and Horst Frank. A teacher is forced at gunpoint to assist a gang of men find some stolen money. Directed by Paul Greengrass (516320)
**4.05am Not Fade Away (i) (s) (999664)
**5.00am Best of British Motor Sport (i) (45184)
5.30am Morning News (30165)**********

6.00am GMTV (7483225)
9.25am Supermarket Sweep (s) (1651119)
9.55am Regional News (Telex) (242800)
10.00am The Time... The Place (s) (937788)
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RACING 40

KELLEWAY ON
FAST TRACK
TO THE TOP

SPORT

FRIDAY JUNE 28 1996

CRICKET 41

LLOYD SECURES
WEEK'S REST FOR
JADED PLAYERS

Venables leaves the impossible job well done



Venables optimistic

By ANDREW LONGMORE

FOLLOWING the first rule of show business, like the shrewd old star he is, Terry Venables left the crowd calling for more when the curtain fell on his 2½-year run as England football coach. Venables' contract runs out on Sunday, the day on which England should have won the European championship. But defeat by Germany, those traditional wreckers of dreams, brought the bout of reflection, assessment and, yes, a very un-English touch of self-congratulation forward a few days. There was even a trademark wiggle of the eyebrows, just for old time's sake.

"I shan't be far away," he said. "Only in Kensington." But probably not for long. Though Venables intimated that life after Euro 96 had not existed until the last sorrow had been drowned late into Wed-

nesday night, the telephone will not go quiet on one of Europe's most respected coaches. The shame of it all is that the callers will probably speak in foreign accents, not in the measured English of an official of the Football Association. Venables said it would be "extremely difficult" if he would work for the FA again, which seemed to rule him out of the vacancy for technical director.

Venables' timing is impeccable. Not only has he taught an England team to think on its feet, an achievement beyond most of his predecessors, he has managed to depart the "impossible job", as Graham Taylor described it, smelling of roses. Not even Sir Alf Ramsey managed that. Venables has moulded a team of young talent and experienced professionals, capable of matching the best the Continent can offer not just with

the standard English virtues of heart and sinew but on their own terms, in the mind. It will be a long time before the Dutch, traditional inhabitants of a different footballing planet, lose the bruises from their fall to earth.

"The players have become men for all seasons," Venables said. "If

Southgate the brave — 1
End of the affair — 18
Bobby Robson — 42
Penalty clause reviewed — 43

there is a battle, they can handle it, but they have proved they can be intelligent, move opponents out of position and make chances at the highest level. The victory over Holland was particularly satisfying. It was a battle of wits and the style in which we won it was great.

"One of the most satisfying things has been the openness of minds, which is terrific for players used to doing things their own way. Going to a tournament and carrying through a plan, that gave me a tremendous feeling." Wit, intelligence, open-mindedness. These are new words in the English footballing vocabulary. Yet to see an England side sing a rhapsody in indigo blue, provide a two-hour exhibition of neat inter-passing, patience and change of pace, albeit unfulfilled on the night, was reward enough after the nation's clubs fell from Europe last season like conkers in autumn.

The buck must now be passed to Glenn Hoddle and the managers in the FA Carling Premiership. Will they — and supporters paying £30 for a seat — tolerate the sort of patient move which once brought Sheringham from a position deep

into German territory on the right all the way back to Adams, 30 yards from the England goal, and then into a forward dart which led to a header narrowly wide by Shearer? Or have the confidence to sanction the sort of fluidity that allows a player to drop out of the mainstream in order to find space, as Cantona does so adeptly for Manchester United and Gascoigne is learning to do for England?

There has been a lot said about whether our players are good enough," Venables said. "It's the dilemma of the Premier League and international football. If we can solve it, it will be a great step forward. We have to get continuity." Young lions such as McManaman, Anderson, Barry and the Neville brothers now have a responsibility to play chess as well as draughts back at their clubs.

The players dispersed to the sun and the beaches yesterday for a well-earned rest. Venables said his goodbyes in the morning. "It was a very strange feeling, not sad, not good, just different. We've been together all this time, been so close, then everyone goes their separate ways. The spirit has got stronger and stronger, just like the crowd's."

"We've left a basis of confidence and, if that continues, we can be very optimistic about the future. I've loved every minute of the job. It's been terrific, but I don't feel that bad about leaving it."

What Venables' future holds outside football is more questionable. The courtroom will replace the boardroom as his natural habitat for the next year as he tries to restore a reputation which, in footballing terms, will be irrevocably linked to 12 days of bliss in the summer of 1996.

Wimbledon champion gains revenge on Centre Court for defeat by Philippoussis

Sampras calls shots in duel of the big guns

By DAVID MILLER

MARK PHILIPPOUSSIS has an intimidating physique, a cross between an Olympic sprinter and a shot putter: 6ft 4in and 14½st of power. He fires bullets across the tennis net. Yesterday he was abruptly stopped in his tracks on Centre Court by Pete Sampras.

The Wimbledon singles champion gained emphatic revenge for the straight-sets defeat that Philippoussis, the 19-year-old Greek-Australian, had inflicted upon him in this year's Australian Open. Philippoussis was bursting gaskets and getting nowhere. Sampras won their third round encounter 7-6, 6-4, 6-4, with never a flicker of doubt, and left the youngster groping for words afterwards as well as shots on court.

Goran Ivanisevic, the fourth seed, was also upholding the frayed reputation of the seeding committee, thumping his left-handed way past Pierre

Bouteyre, of France, and then treating the interview room to his usual range of laconic humour: this time about the Catholic priest, Father Joe, who is giving him psychological advice every Sunday back home in Croatia "and



helping me to keep calm".

Philippoussis, who tends to change coach speculatively in pursuit of his ambition to break into the world's top 20, needs advice not on serving but return of service.

In a match that threatened to reduce the spectator's pulse

to a standstill, the best he achieved against Sampras's own relentless delivery on any game was 30-15. The score progressed with as much variation as one of those fairground machines on which you hammer a plate to raise a ball vertically in an attempt to ring a bell. The only music was coming from Sampras.

The half-dozen break points were all his. Philippoussis has the armoury to become formidable but needs to broaden his touch. Searching in the aftermath of defeat for reassurance, all he could find was the satisfaction he had felt when he saved a set point in the first set at 6-5 before surrendering the tie-break.

"When I'm nervous, my feet don't work," he admitted, and there were times yesterday when his feet must have felt a long way away. He conceded that Sampras had seemed more determined than in their encounter at Flinders Park, and said it was strange that he had been more nervous at Wimbledon than in front of his own Melbourne crowd. "His second shot was often great, and I missed a lot," Philippoussis said.

Sampras, for the first time in weeks, looked fresh and bright-eyed, a different man from the one who laboured in the heat of Paris at last month's French Open. A quick victory, instead of lengthy labour, was just what he needed in his pursuit of a fourth consecutive title. He smiled at talk of their mutual Greek heritage: "I guess we look pretty similar, with thick eyebrows," Sampras said.

On the grass on which he is the supreme player, Sampras was in his element. "Mark was phenomenal in Australia, but this was very different," he reflected. "Today, I played the big points a little bit better, returned a little bit better. There wasn't that much difference in strategy. Physically, I



Sampras is a study in concentration as he plays a backhand return on his way to a victory over Philippoussis at Wimbledon yesterday

feel fine, though I was glad of the short points."

The champion remains worried about his public image, the accusation by some that his efficiency is boring. "You're not going to see any cartwheels out there, any jokes," he said. "I'm just going to go out and play."

Asked about suggestions that the All England Club might at some stage change from a grass surface, Sampras said that it would be "the biggest mistake for the game and the club that they could possibly make."

Steffi Graf, the women's top seed and champion, snarled for a while against Nathalie Baudone, of Italy, before winning 7-5, 6-3. There were times during the second set when she appeared to be limping, though she was reluctant to discuss this. "I've been having

enough injuries and I've talked about them more than enough," she said dismissively. "I live with them."

She considered that early on she had been playing too deep, that this had suited Baudone and that she should have tested her with more drop

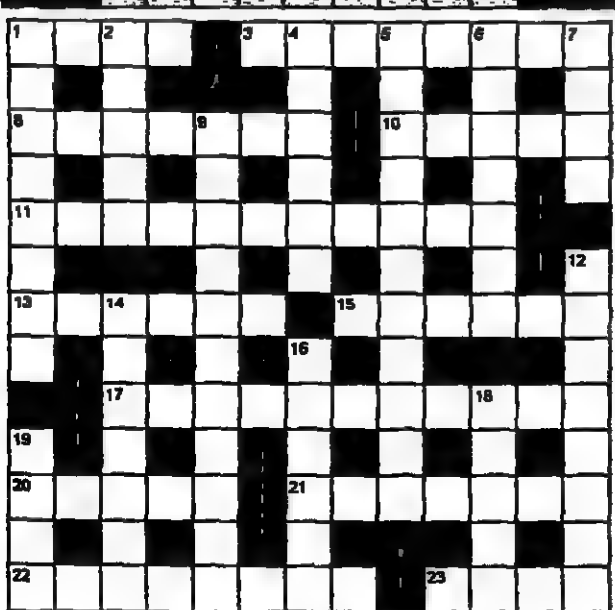
shots. She reflected that the visibility towards the end of a grey afternoon was such that "if it had been cricket, they would have called tea time, it was really dark out there and I was just hoping that I would get the match through."

Graf's likely opponent in the last 16 — her next match but

one — is Martina Hingis, the 15-year-old Swiss prodigy, who yesterday disposed of Rachel Viollot for the loss of only two games. Viollot had just become the British No 1 by virtue of her first-round victory over her compatriot Megan Miller, the pair resident in Florida. Hingis, the former Wimbledon junior champion, was hammered by Graf in the opening round last year on her first senior appearance but will carry some optimism in the light of her victory over Graf in the Italian Open this year.

Strange scheduling found Mary Pierce, the No 13 seed, on a non-show court against Claire Taylor, of Britain. Pierce won in straight sets but the four games she dropped in the first set suggest that the combination of mind and game is not yet fully in tune.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 820

ACROSS

- 1 Dumb (4)
- 3 Apt to quibble (8)
- 8 (Greek) bringer of retribution (7)
- 10 Summer; snake (5)
- 11 Knowledgeable collector (11)
- 13 Spoiled, eaten away (6)
- 15 Reeds, anciently for MSS (6)
- 17 Badminton "ball" (11)
- 20 Meeting of directors (5)
- 21 Alight; make (one) depressed (3,4)
- 22 Revere (8)
- 23 Poke, jog (4)

DOWN

- 1 Care of hands (8)
- 2 Shakespeare's Athenian misanthrope (5)
- 4 Give aid (6)
- 5 Holiday salesman (6,5)
- 6 Neat; an officer (7)
- 7 Channel Island, has hereditary ruler (4)
- 9 Overwhelmed (by paperwork, demands) (6,5)
- 12 Disgusted (8)
- 14 Florence region (7)
- 16 Scar; pollen receptacle (6)
- 18 Soot (5)
- 19 Between the sheets (4)

The solution to No 819 will be published Wednesday, July 3

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Henman confirms growing potential

By DAVID MILLER

TIM HENMAN yesterday put behind him the outstanding match of the Wimbledon championships so far — Tuesday's first-round defeat of Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the fifth seed — and demonstrated he can serve better still. The impression grows, excitingly, that Britain has a player on the verge of a major breakthrough.

Losing the second set tie-break in his second-round match against Danny Sapsford, which had stood at 6-1 and 5-5 when it was halted on the previous evening, Henman obliterated his 27-year-old fellow Briton for the loss of only one further game, winning 6-1, 6-7, 6-0, 6-1. Sapsford found his rival's serving, on No 1 Court, was irresistible.

Today Henman meets another compatriot, the 19-year-old Luke Milligan from Barnet, for the right to challenge either Magnus

Gustafsson, of Sweden, or Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, the eleventh seed, for a place in the last eight. Henman contemplates the prospect calmly though he and David Felgate, his coach, are disappointed that the tournament schedule has forced him to play on four consecutive days; possibly five, if he has to play doubles tomorrow. "I'm not unhappy," Henman said in his understated way, "but maybe it's

something they should look at. Some have not played between Monday and Thursday, while I seem to be spending all my time on court."

In theory, he should have no difficulty against Milligan. He has never previously met either Ferreira, the man who has single-handedly restored South African prestige, or Gustafsson.

"They could have given him Wednesday off (instead of a



Henman stretches to return a forehand against Sapsford

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مكتبة الأمل

Bonn and Prague set to heal rift at Wembley summit

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A DIPLOMATIC breakthrough in the simmering row between Germany and the Czech Republic may be achieved on or behind the Wembley terraces when Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Vaclav Klaus, the Czech Prime Minister, meet at the weekend to watch the Euro 96 final.

Relations between Prague and Bonn have been frosty for months and there is said to be strong personal animosity between Mr. Klaus and the Chancellor. Germany has come to terms with all of its neighbours over the Second World War, apart from the Czech Republic.

Now it seems that the Germans and Czechs may be ready to bridge their differences at an informal Wembley summit. "After weeks of newspaper rhetoric about soccer wars, it would be very satisfactory to iron out a dispute in a meeting in a soccer stadium," a diplomat said in Bonn.

Whether ordinary Czechs will view it in the same light remains to be seen. "It will be revenge for the Sudetens," a Czech fan interviewed by German television said.

The critical issue is the historical treatment of a 2.5 million Sudetens, ethnic

Germans, who were expelled from Czechoslovakia in 1945-46. Czechs felt, and many still feel, that the Sudetens betrayed their country by welcoming Hitler's invasion in 1938. The Sudetens were often brutally treated, pushed into cattle trucks or forced to trek on foot with only a suitcase of belongings. The Czechs argue that these sufferings were a trifle compared to the Nazi occupation.

The lobby representing the Sudetens and their relations carries considerable political clout in Bavaria, where most of them settled. Since the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) is one of the government coalition partners, that has made for a prickly relationship with Prague.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister and leader of the CSU, recently addressed Sudeten exiles and questioned Prague's European credentials. Mr. Klaus struck back: "I am not prepared or willing to hear statements like these from such important representatives of the federal German Government."

The Bonn Government wants a public apology from the Czechs for their treatment of the Sudetens. But the

Czechs are worried that an apology will translate into claims for compensation and the restitution of property. President Havel has said it was wrong to hold all Sudeten Germans collectively guilty, but that is as far as Prague has been ready to go towards the German position.

However, the auguries are good for the soccer summit. Mr. Klaus and Herr Kohl talked on the fringes of the Florence summit this month and for the first time seemed to accept that a joint Czech-German declaration should be completed as soon as possible.

The men have not quite overcome their mutual dislike. Only last week Herr Kohl criticised Baroness Thatcher and her "Prague followers" in an off-the-cuff speech to the Christian Democratic Economic Commission. Mr. Klaus is not only a radical free marketeer, but also the most Euro-sceptical of all Central and East European leaders. He has made no secret of his low opinion of Herr Kohl's cherished EMU project.

The process of working out a joint declaration with Germany has been hampered by the uncertain outcome of the Czech election, which left Mr. Klaus with a minority Government. A sticking point in the coalition talks has been the identity of the new minister in charge of negotiating European entry. The Czech Foreign Ministry is reluctant to surrender that responsibility; Mr. Klaus wants to keep control of the long bargaining with Brussels.

The arguments over the joint declaration have robbed the Chancellor of one of his favourite poses: champion of eastward enlargement of the European Union. The longer the dispute continued, the more it seemed to the Czechs as if Herr Waigel and the CSU were making a Sudeten settlement into a fixed condition for European entry.



An American military policeman on duty yesterday near a road sign at Doboj with election campaign posters featuring Radovan Karadzic

Karadzic sends his lawyer to Bosnia war crimes hearing

BY BEN MACINTYRE

RADOVAN KARADZIC, the Bosnian Serb leader and alleged war criminal, implicitly recognised the legitimacy of the Bosnian War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague yesterday when his lawyer demanded access to the court to prepare a possible case for his defence on charges of mass murder and "ethnic cleansing".

Dr Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, his military commander, have been indicted on charges of genocide and top of the list of the tribunal's most-wanted men, but both remain at large in Bosnian Serb territory.

The tribunal at The Hague yesterday began "Rule 61" hearings into the Karadzic and Mladic cases, a legal mechanism allowing the prosecution to present its case and increase international pressure for the arrest of the two

men, but which falls short of a trial in absentia.

The hearings were briefly delayed yesterday when Igor Pantelic, a Belgrade lawyer acting on behalf of Dr Karadzic, asked for permission to sit in on the court to examine the evidence against the two men "with a view to preparing a possible defence". The court, however, ruled that Mr Pantelic could have full access to case files and prosecution documents only if he was accompanied by the Bosnian Serb leaders at a formal trial.

Judge Claude Jorda said that Mr Pantelic could stay in the court for the reading of the charges, but would then have to sit in the public gallery for the rest of the hearing.

Prosecutors clearly fear that releasing their files before Dr Karadzic and General Mladic

are in custody could lead to interference with witnesses.

More than a dozen witnesses are expected to testify against the two men during the seven-day hearing. The indictments allege that from the earliest days of the Bosnia conflict, Dr Karadzic and General Mladic co-ordinated atrocities and mass murder of non-Serbs, which prosecutors described as "scenes from hell, written on the darkest pages of human history".

At the end of the hearings the judges will probably issue an international arrest warrant for the two men.

The tribunal yesterday charged eight Bosnian Serbs with the rape and torture of Muslim women in Foca, southwest Bosnia, in 1992 and 1993. The charges are the first to concentrate on rape as a war crime.

Mostar poll likely to bolster ethnic divide

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN MOSTAR

CITIZENS in the bitterly divided city of Mostar will vote on Sunday in Bosnia's first postwar election, which is widely expected to cement the ethnic division of the medieval town despite a two-year attempt by the European Union to reunite it.

Some 2,500 Nato troops have been deployed to provide security for the elections because officials on both sides fear a renewal of ethnic violence when thousands of refugees return to cast their ballots. Muslims and Croats fought a brutal war in 1993 which was ended with a peace deal that never solved the issues behind the fighting.

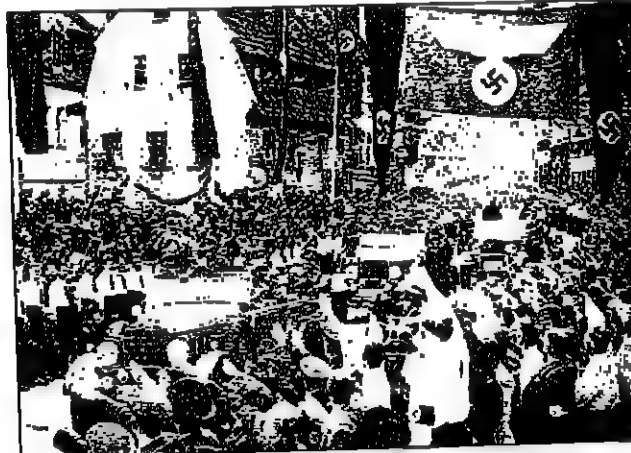
In the wake of that conflict, the EU set up an international administration in Mostar in 1994 with the aim of uniting the city, whose prewar population of approximately 126,000 was 34.8 per cent

Muslim, 33.8 per cent Croat and 19 per cent Serb. Two years and hundreds of thousands of pounds later, Mostar remains bitterly divided. Croats still occupy the thriving west bank of the Neretva river and Muslims the devastated east bank. Virtually all the Serbs are gone.

Voters will elect one mayor, and a city council, but the results are predetermined, based on a formula that allocates a certain number of seats to each ethnic group. Because the governor of the Mostar canton is a Muslim, both sides have agreed that the mayor will be a Croat.

The Mostar elections are widely perceived as a test case for nationwide elections on September 14.

However, the overwhelming apathy on both sides is likely to cement the power of the nationalists.



Hitler is cheered in 1938 as the invading German armies march across the Czechoslovak border

It's hard living with Parkinson's Disease



Parkinson's is a disabling and often painful disease. You can suddenly become completely rigid and not be able to speak or move a muscle for several minutes. Simple tasks like controlling your knife and fork, walking, eating and using the telephone may be impossible without help.

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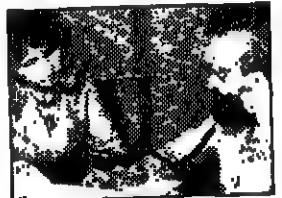
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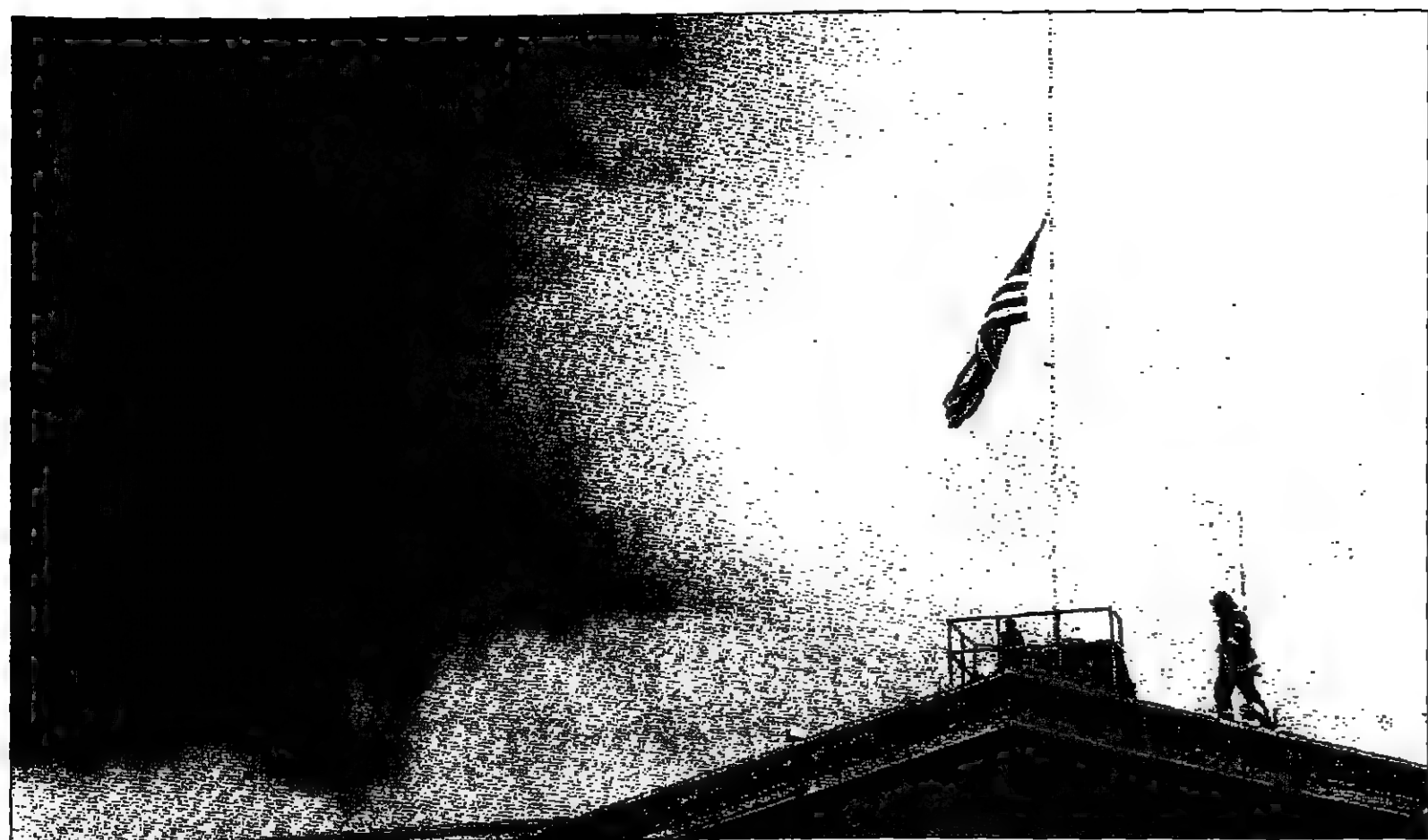
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But it needn't be terrible



A fireman keeps clear of smoke billowing from the roof of the US Treasury building in Washington. A fierce fire on the top floor of the historic building sent a pall of black smoke over the neighbouring White House and caused a rush-hour traffic jam (Ian Brodie writes).

Fire halts work at US Treasury

nearly four hours to bring the flames under control and seven were treated in hospital for heat exhaustion. The fire chief, Ois Latin, said their work under the vaulted roof was made difficult by the warren of offices,

many with false ceilings that had to be attacked with axes and chainsaws to reach the flames. The fire started in building materials left on the roof during restoration work. Treasury workers were given the day off

yesterday while officials checked reports of asbestos in the materials. Many documents were lost in the international affairs department on the damaged fifth floor, but no money was stored in the building. The colonnaded Treasury covers five acres and is the largest Greek revival structure in the world.

Flying Elvis killed in nightclub stunt

FROM TOM RHODES IN NEW YORK

THREE skydiving Elvis impersonators were in mourning yesterday for their fourth colleague, who died after the team was blown off course by high winds during a nightclub opening in Boston.

The four stunt artists from the Honeymoon in Vegas skydiving team, complete with fringed jump suits, slicked-back hair and sunglasses, were supposed to fly over the WaterWorks club and land in a nearby parking area.

Instead, the gusting winds pulled two of the skydivers into Boston Harbour, a third into a street and the fourth, fatally, into the Salem Yacht Club. Raymond Sayles, 41, of Las Vegas, died soon after he slammed into a wooden barrier off the pier. He suffered severe head and chest injuries.

"We ran into winds and so we didn't quite make it into our target," said Thomas LaRoche, who has made 2,500 jumps over 25 years and was one of those who landed in the harbour.

He said that each member of the team was a licensed skydiver and had been performing as part of the Flying Elvises for many years. "We are all seasoned professionals and normally we can handle this, but tragically it didn't go the way we had planned."

The parachuting troupe is just a small part of the burgeoning Elvis Presley industry in Las Vegas including the notorious Elvis wedding, an event at which impersonators offer a sickly rendition of *Love Me Tender* as the happy couple join hands.

New York aims for polite force

BY TOM RHODES

AFTER more than a decade of nurturing the rudest police force in America, New York is now offering promotion and prizes to officers who exude politeness.

Plagued by more than 2,300 complaints of verbally abusive and disrespectful officers, Howard Safir, the Commissioner, is introducing random undercover checks to test and grade the levels of respect for the public among his patrolmen and women.

Anyone whose performance is found to be exemplary will be rewarded by promotions, citations and award luncheons. Those who are rude or abusive to pedestrians and drivers face disciplinary action and may be obliged to re-enter training programmes.

Military school must drop all-male rule

BY IAN BRODIE

THE US Supreme Court has ruled that an all-male military school in Virginia must admit women to its physically and mentally gruelling programme or it will have to lose its state funds.

The seven-to-one endorsement of sexual equality was celebrated by women's groups who saw it as strengthening their position in other fights they are engaged in to win support for women's athletics programmes and to open up more job opportunities to women.

The court's opinion was written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who made her name as an advocate for women's rights before joining the bench.

Justice Bader said that an alternative programme for women at the Virginia Military Institute served the state's

sons, yet it made no provision for its daughters.

An alternative programme for women, said the judge, was but a pale shadow of the male course and did not amount to equal protection under the American Constitution.

Conservative groups were dismayed and so was Justice Antonin Scalia, who, dissenting, lamented that the enemies of single-sex education had won. "I do not think any of us, women included, will be better off for its destruction," he said.

The decision also affects The Citadel in South Carolina, the only other all-male military school run by an American state, where Shannon Faulkner won admittance as a cadet under a court order last year. She dropped out after a week, complaining of isolation and harassment by male cadets.

FBI hunts for clues to Iranian link

Dhahran bombing claimed by second Islamic group

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN LYONS

TERRORISM

A SECOND, previously unknown group, Hezbollah-Gulf, last night claimed responsibility for the explosion in which 19 American servicemen in Saudi Arabia were killed, as FBI agents hunted for clues to discover whether the attack was carried out with Iranian backing.

The claim, being treated as potentially serious by Western security experts, came in a statement in Arabic read to a news agency in the Gulf. Hezbollah (the Party of God) is closely linked to Tehran and only last month, another new wing of the organisation,

Hezbollah-Bahrain, was named by the authorities as behind a plot to overthrow the pro-Western Bahraini regime. "In the name of God the merciful, Hezbollah-Gulf declares its total responsibility for the Saudi explosion. We threaten to carry out more attacks," the caller said. In Iran, Hezbollah is the name used to describe Islamic militants who provide grassroots support for the revolutionary Government, which yesterday denied any involvement in Tuesday's bomb, the worst attack on American servicemen or civilians in the Middle East for 13 years.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, is planning to deliver a personal assurance to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Monday that the world's most powerful nations are united in their determination to combat Islamic and other terrorism.

Travelling straight to Saudi Arabia after the summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations, he will be the first Western minister to visit the desert kingdom since the Dhahran bombing, and will take with him the firm commitment of world leaders to back the Saudi Government in its fight against Islamic extremists.

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Arab diplomats said that the second claim appeared more authentic than the first, made 24 hours earlier in a call to al-Arab newspaper in London alleging that another previously unknown group — the Legion of the Martyr Abdulrahman al-Husayni — had carried out the attack. That group was linked to two Saudis beheaded last year for throwing acid at a

Saudi officer. Questioned about the claims and the FBI investigation, Mr Christopher urged caution. "Although there have been some claims of responsibility, we do not know if these are spurious or valid," he said at the G7 summit in Lyons.

Despite the denial from Tehran, the semi-official Iranian media made little effort to disguise their glee at the attack, claiming that Saudi Arabia would witness its own Islamic revolution if American forces did not withdraw and the ruling Al-Saud family did not give a political say to the opposition, which consists mainly of Islamic fundamentalists.

Tehran's daily *Abrar*, in a commentary headlined "Aftershocks in the island of black gold", said: "It seems that in the next few years, a second Middle East explosion [the first being Iran's Islamic revolution] will take place in Saudi Arabia."

Tehran radio said that the opposition to the presence of US forces was not limited to the Gulf; it also included Japan. The radio added: "The presence of American forces in countries with strong traditional and religious social structures has provoked the sensitivities of... people who see this presence as an obstacle to their own cultural identity and national independence."

Iran News repeated the mullahs' position that America and other Western forces were a threat to the Gulf's security and should leave. "In principle, terrorism is to be condemned. However, regional observers believe that such acts will continue as long as US forces are present in this part of the world."

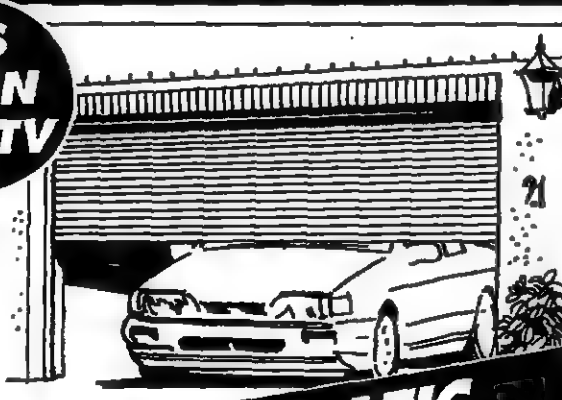
Intelligence experts cited the planning, organisation and finance needed for the attack as indicating the backing of a foreign power.

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Military experts and media brand 35-yard gap between fence and Dhahran flats inadequate



A waitress in a restaurant window yesterday photographs President Clinton as he addresses the people of Perouges, near Lyons

Lyons billet for army marching on its stomach

FROM MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR
IN LYONS

G7 SUMMIT

RAYMOND BARRE, the Mayor of Lyons, knows what is at stake. It is not the world's response to terrorism, debt relief, employment or the future of the World Bank: it is the honour of France.

For weeks, the former Gaullist Prime Minister, parachuted into France's second city to rescue it from the infamy of city hall corruption, has concentrated his energy on the one issue on which his reputation, and that of his city, rests: whether Lyons, the ancient capital of Roman Gaul, the birthplace of the cinema and the heroic centre of wartime resistance, remains, indisputably, the gastronomic capital of France and of the world.

M Barre, an economics professor and notorious gourmand, has demanded daily faxes from all the big hotels and restaurants to ensure that their menus are the finest imaginable. He personally chose the china, decorated with the city crest, for the state banquets.

Horrified to find that the city hall had no proper kitchens, he has spent more than £4 million refurbishing the venue for the G7 leaders and otherwise ensuring that Lyons puts on a fine show.

Paul Bocuse, the Cantona of French gastronomy, was forced to share his expertise with three other Michelin-starred chefs in preparing last night's banquet but for the world leaders, too many

cooks could never spoil the summit broth.

Lyonnais restaurateurs are less ecstatic for all the talk of *quenelles aux écrevisses* (crayfish dumplings) and other regional specialties, the worry is that the biggest gourmands — the locals — will be unable to get through the security cordon. In fact the whole city, rewarded by President Chirac with the G7 for M Barre's valuable election support, seems less than enchanted at this attempt to escape from the shadow of Paris.

The taxpayers are complaining at the cost, £100 a second according to local estimates: the unemployed say that they and the other 23 million on the dole in the G7 countries will get nothing

from the summit; and Third World advocates, who annually stage a rival summit, are, as usual, arguing that debt will remain as burdensome as ever while foreign aid to the world's poorest countries fell by more than 9 per cent last year.

Even attempts to inspire the citizenry with music and fireworks have fallen somewhat flat. The great public concert, planned for this evening, has been moved to Saturday after everyone has gone home.

Soul singer Al Jarreau will perform. So will Johnny Hallyday, the ageing French rock star and Lord Menthon, who turned 80 in April. But Lyons, lush in the rich green valley of the Rhône, historic home of the silk industry for three centuries and boasting enough châteaux and 17th century pal-

aces to house all the delegations in classical comfort, is still a magnet.

Unusually, summit leaders, who normally fly in at the last minute, all arrived early. President Clinton did what he likes doing best: campaigning in a sleepy village square in Perouges, where, he said, American GIs had fought side by side with the French resistance 52 years ago "to win your freedom back".

There was, as usual, a separate spouses' programme: a visit to the opera house, a rose show, a wine-tasting. Hillary Clinton probably would have preferred to take advantage of her presence in France to consult her old adviser, Joan of Arc, but no special arrangements were made for that.

Leading article, page 21

Americans attack security 'failure' at Saudi blast base

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BOMB REACTION

AS THE reality of the Saudi bomb attack continued to sink in yesterday, Americans were increasingly asking why their troops had been left so vulnerable despite months of warnings.

Commentators and security experts strongly criticised the recent precautions taken around the base housing in Dhahran, eastern Saudi Arabia, as inadequate.

General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, seemed to agree. In a tense exchange with reporters, he conceded it was time to take a new look at security. In fact, an urgent security review was launched at American military installations, embassies and consulates around the world.

The issue in the Dhahran bombing is that although concrete barriers had been installed on the perimeter of the complex, they were placed only 35 yards from an eight-floor block of flats where servicemen were housed. Vincent Cannistraro, former chief of counter-terrorism for the CIA, said: "To have a 35-yard security perimeter in light of the history of attacks against US military facilities in the Middle East is absolutely reprehensible."

Security steps were also criticised because, unlike last year's bombing in Oklahoma City, the attack did not come out of the blue. There had been six security alerts issued by the State Department in the last six months. In addition, cars had been seen driving up to the chain-link fence in Dhahran, lingering for a while and then speeding away.

On May 15, the American Embassy in Saudi Arabia issued a security warning to 35,000 Americans living in the kingdom informing them of anonymous threats of retaliation if four Saudis were executed after being found guilty of planting a car bomb that killed five Americans last November. The four were beheaded on May 31.

In a scathing television report, ABC News noted that new security measures around the White House in Washington are designed to keep a lorry bomb 300 yards away. ABC News asked why the Dhahran base was allowed up to 35 yards from the flats. "Most kids can throw a football that far," the report said.

Officials, though, sought to defend what they had done, saying 30 steps had been taken in Dhahran, including the posting of lookouts who raised the alarm. General Binford Peay, commander of US Central Command which oversees troops in Saudi Arabia, said the bomb was far more powerful than any ever used in a terrorist attack against Americans in the Middle East. "Frankly, you could have moved that blast a number of yards further out and you probably would have had similar results," he said.

Earlier, William Perry, Defence Secretary, said there would have been many, many

more casualties if the petrol tanker had been able to park immediately beside the targeted building. He is probably right. In Oklahoma City, a rented van was driven into a parking space under the front canopy of the federal building. Its bomb went off with a force of 2,000 lb of TNT, killing 167, including 19 children. The Dhahran bomb, which killed 19, was reckoned to have an explosive force of 5,000 lb.

Mr Perry will go to Jeddah tomorrow to discuss improving security for American troops with Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, and other Saudi government ministers.

Pentagon officials refused to say what Mr Perry might propose, but he will reiterate the Clinton Administration's determination to keep forces in the Gulf to protect American interests and the moderate Arab states.

Memorial service: After the G7 summit in Lyons, President Clinton will attend memorial services in Florida on Sunday for air force victims of the bombing.



Shalikashvili: concedes need for security review



Perry: to fly to Jeddah for talks with ministers

Papandreou's party seeks successor

BY JOHN CARR
IN ATHENS AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

GREECE'S ruling Socialist party started a three-day national congress yesterday to elect a successor to their late leader, Andreas Papandreou. Rivalries quickly came to

the fore at the opening session of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek), attended by more than 5,000 delegates, with Akis Tsochatzopoulos, the Interior Minister, competing for the job against Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister. Mr Simitis yesterday vowed to resign his post if he fails to be

elected party president. The vital ballot is expected to be held on Sunday.

Mr Simitis hopes the party presidency will help to underpin his premiership and carry through pro-market and pro-European economic reforms, including an accelerated privatisation programme. How-

ever, he has come under fire from nationalists, who accuse him of being too soft on the perceived security threat from Turkey.

Recent opinion polls indicate that Pasek is trailing the conservative New Democracy opposition nationally by at least three percentage points.

Tabloid revolution rocks royals in Spain

FROM TUNIKU VARADARAJAN
IN MADRID

SPANISH royal circles and guardians of taste are increasingly alarmed by the tabloid revolution shaking the country's normally respectful press.

For months, the cameras and attention of Spain's gossip magazines have been trained on Crown Prince Felipe and Gigi Howard, the 24-year-old American woman with whom he is believed to be in love.

Now, worryingly for some, even ostensibly serious news magazines are adopting tabloid tactics in pursuit of royal stories. "The American who has driven the Prince crazy", "The American adventure", "The Gigi storm", and "Exclusive: The secret meeting between the Prince and Gigi Howard", are some of the stories featured on the covers of magazines. The bold tone and irreverent contents of the stories signal a departure from traditional Spanish methods.

The private affairs of the royal family — and in particular that of the King — have been the subject of a tacit taboo, one that is fast eroding. "This is a natural result of the shrinking of the distance between the royal family and the public in a democracy," says Felipe Sahagun, a leader writer for *El Mundo*. Not everyone is happy, however. Clara Isabel de Bustos, court correspondent of the conservative daily ABC, says: "All this Gigi business in the press creates the false impression that the Prince is an idler."



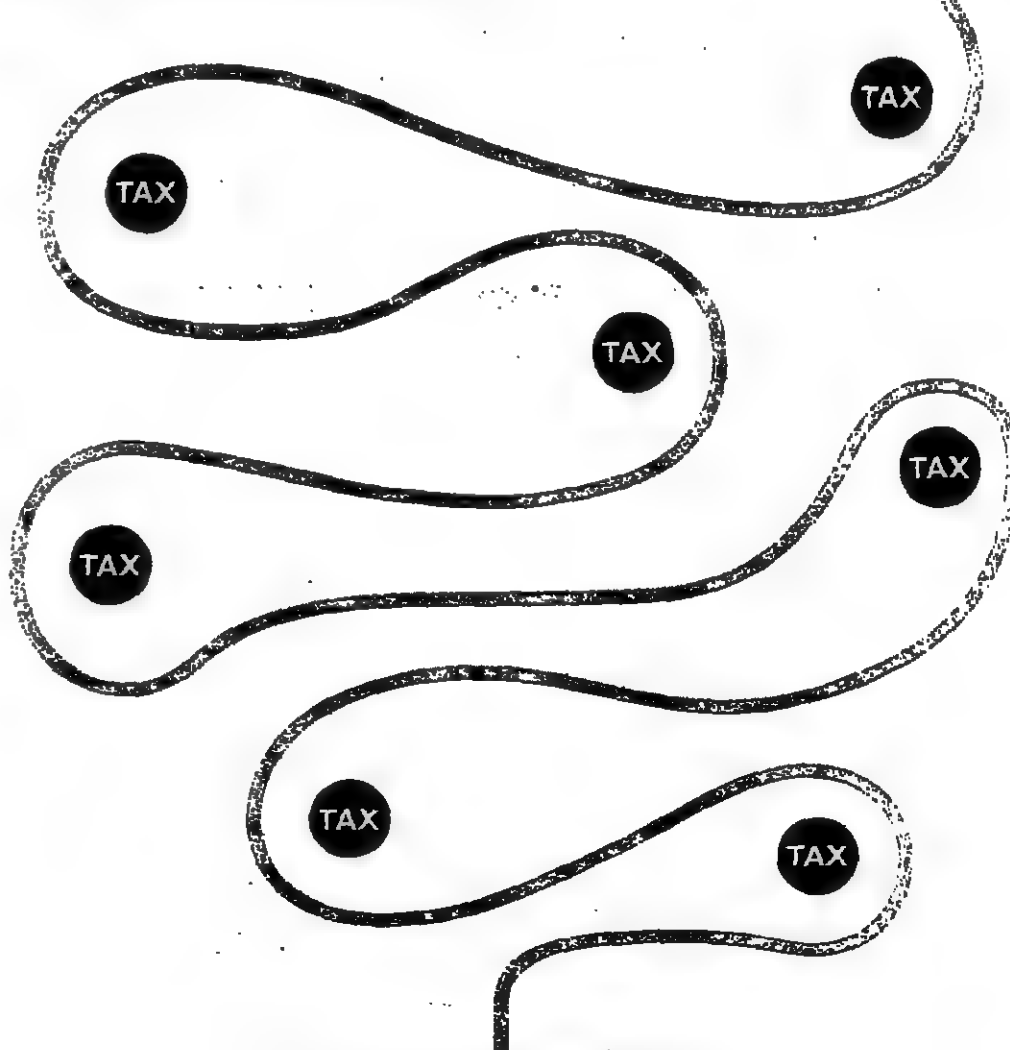
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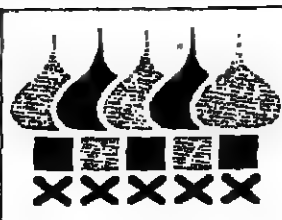
Lebed supporters balk at voting for Yeltsin

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN NOVOCHERKASSK, SOUTHERN RUSSIA

GENNADI ZYUGANOV, the Communist candidate in the Russian presidential election, has said that "voters are not serious, they cannot be bought and sold," and this is a warning that the campaign organisers of Aleksandr Lebed, the former candidate, are taking seriously.

They know that just because the general has joined President Yeltsin's administration, this does not necessarily mean that his 11 million voters will head his advice to support the incumbent in the second round. If enough of them vote Communist, or even stay at home, Mr Yeltsin could still lose. They also know that if General Lebed fails to turn out most of his voters for the President, then even if Mr Yeltsin wins, General Lebed's prestige within the administration will suffer accordingly.

Mr Lebed's campaign organiser in his birthplace, the town of Novocherkassk, is



RUSSIAN ELECTION

Ataman Gennadi Nedvygin, a Cossack leader and businessman, and a childhood friend of General Lebed. This week, he told a meeting of his campaign staff that "it is no good just handing out pamphlets telling our voters that they now have to vote for Yeltsin — they'll take them and stuff them down the lavatory. We've got to emphasise that Lebed is joining the administration so as to reform it, get rid of the corrupt element, and keep Yeltsin up to the mark." The strategy

adopted by Lebed supporters in Novocherkassk, and indeed nationally, tends therefore to be more about continued support for the general in his new role, and fear of Communism, than it is about positive support for Mr Yeltsin.

Although General Lebed is personally popular in Novocherkassk, the biggest vote in the first round went to the Communists, with 32 per cent. Mr Nedvygin's deputy, Yuri Trukhmanov, a retired police colonel, admitted that he understood these voters well.

"For all Yeltsin's promises, pensioners here have not been paid their pension for January, February and March. Teachers have not been paid for April and May, and are now being sent on two months' unpaid holiday. I know how these people will vote."

General Lebed's pledge to get tough on crime and cor-

ruption is popular, and is endlessly emphasised by his election propaganda. But as another of Mr Nedvygin's assistants, Yevgeni Kirsanov, a local historian, admitted: "None of us really know how the Lebed vote will go the next time round. He has frightened some people with his authoritarian image. So our key task is to show that Lebed is tough, but not cruel; determined, but moderate."

In straw polls on the streets of Novocherkassk and the regional centre of Rostov this week, about half of General Lebed's voters interviewed said that they would now vote for Mr Yeltsin, with a quarter saying they support the Communist and another quarter undecided or against both candidates.

The latest national opinion poll, published yesterday, showed 59 per cent of General Lebed's voters now supporting Mr Yeltsin, with 14 per cent going to Mr Zyuganov. According to the poll, this would help to give President Yeltsin a vote of 53 per cent and victory, but by such a narrow margin that Yeltsin supporters are worried.

The clear risk for Mr Yeltsin is that Lebed supporters may not vote. Again and again, people who had backed the general, and even the liberal leader, Grigori Yavlinsky, have said that if they voted for the President, it would be without enthusiasm. As Yuri Andreyevich, an engineer, said: "I voted for Lebed because I believe he would try to do something against crime and corruption. Now he's with Yeltsin, I suppose I'll vote for Yeltsin, but I'm afraid Yeltsin's regime may simply stifle him, or sack him again, and nothing will change."

Or, as Mikhail, an officer cadet, put it: "I voted for Lebed in the first round, but whatever he says, I just can't bring myself to vote for Yeltsin in the second. I can't forgive Yeltsin for what he's done to the army."



General Aleksandr Lebed addresses nationalist supporters in Moscow yesterday

New supremo defines empire

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ONLY a week into his job as the country's National Security Adviser, General Aleksandr Lebed has made it clear that his political ambitions know no bounds.

Not content with his broad, but ill-defined, new powers as Russia's security supremo, the former paratrooper yesterday laid claim to wide-ranging areas of government policy and set his sights firmly on the Kremlin.

The move, during a meeting with Russian nationalists in Moscow, seemed likely to reinforce the growing suspicion among many Kremlin insiders that the man brought in to save President Yeltsin in next week's election may turn out to be a Frankenstein bent on seizing power.

Although widely anticipated, the extent of General Lebed's public muscle-flexing has staggered even those pundits accustomed to his growing threats, which previously have been confined to discuss-

ing criminals, corrupt politicians and army rivals.

Yesterday, during a free-ranging question-and-answer session with supporters of the Union of Patriotic and National Organisations, General Lebed left little doubt that he expected his writ to run much further. Hardly any aspect of government policy was left untouched by the former boxer and Afghan war veteran, who claimed everything from protecting Russian culture to stemming the brain-drain as issues of national security.

Plea for reruns in Natal poll

Johannesburg: Peter Miller, Minister of Local Government in KwaZulu/Natal, yesterday applied in the Supreme Court to have voting in four rural areas of the province declared null and void and for polling to be repeated in those areas (Inigo Gilmore writes).

The move followed complaints by the African National Congress about administrative chaos and intimidation during Wednesday's local elections. President Mandela said the repeatedly delayed polls had largely been free and fair. Final results are expected today.

Prisoners lose lottery of death

San Salvador: Four prisoners aged 18 to 22, who lost a lottery, are due to commit suicide on Monday in protest against conditions at Santa Ana jail near here. The 787 El Salvador inmates chose the suicide lottery to protest against inhuman conditions at the prison, which should hold 350. They are also on hunger strike. (AFP)

New director for institute

London: Air Marshal Sir Timothy Garden is to become Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs on January 1, 1997, taking over from Professor Sir Laurence Martin, who will retire (Eve-Anne Prentice writes). Sir Timothy, 52, started his career as a pilot in the RAF.

Uganda votes

Kampala: Long queues formed outside polling stations around the Ugandan capital as the country marked its return to democracy with parliamentary elections after some 20 years of dictatorship. (Reuters)

Zyuganov flaunts xenophobia

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

ON A day when he might have been expected to be out seeking new voters, Gennadi Zyuganov, the Russian Communist presidential candidate, yesterday gave an aggressive speech to a forum of Orthodox Church believers that reinforced his reputation as a xenophobic nationalist with anti-Semitic leanings.

"I am a believer and first of all I believe in Russia," he said to loud applause, saying he had renounced the atheistic doctrines his party used to espouse. He read out the main points of a "programme of national revival" that included a crackdown on pornography and the rebuilding of ruined churches, as well as "the recreation of a single Russian state" on the territory of Russia and its Slavic neighbours.



Zyuganov: aggressive speech to church group

Mr Zyuganov has been advised by some of his aides to adopt a moderate, social-democratic tone in order to build on his core support of 24 million voters and win the presidential run-off on July 3. His choice of audience yesterday showed that he believes

the opposite, that there are votes in a new kind of post-Communist nationalism.

That is the ideology expressed in his two books, *Over the Horizon* and *I Believe in Russia*, where the West is portrayed as a malign influence on Russia's struggle to build its own "spiritually healthy" civilisation.

One of the alarming features of the books is a failure to conceal an instinctual anti-Semitism. In *I Believe in Russia* he alleges that the Western financial system is run by a Jewish conspiracy. Sergei Bykov, of the Moscow Anti-Fascist Centre, said he feared Russians had not yet appreciated how extreme Mr Zyuganov's views were.

"What separates him from the old Communists is that they, formally at least, were internationalists," Mr Bykov said. "He is a thorough nationalist."

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Jupiter's biggest moon has a visitor

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Galileo spacecraft yesterday skimmed by Ganymede, the solar system's largest moon.

Were it not in orbit around Jupiter, Ganymede would qualify as a very respectable planet in its own right: three-quarters as large as Mars, bigger than Mercury, and twice the size and ten times the mass of Pluto.

Galileo passed within 524 miles of the moon, taking pictures which should reveal surface details as small as 33 feet across on Ganymede's cratered surface.

The images will take time to be sent back to Earth, because Galileo's antenna has been out of action since it failed to unfurl in 1991, two years after the spacecraft was launched on its journey by the space shuttle Atlantis.

Thanks to NASA engineers, who reprogrammed Galileo's control systems from the ground, a lower-powered aerial will be able to accomplish almost all the mission's objectives, but more slowly. The first pictures will be released by NASA on July 10.

Geologists are fascinated to see what they will reveal. They believe the moon's ridges, icy grooves and craters resemble the Earth's crust.

Ganymede was first seen by Galileo Galilei, when he pointed his telescope at Jupiter in 1610. The four moons he saw orbiting the planet helped to convince him the Earth was not the centre of the solar system.

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Walking out of the deep Down Under

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

Angus Hamley, 13, left, and Guy Thulborn, nine, who found fossil remains of an amphibian resembling this model.

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT
IN TOKYO

Whale dishes on offer at Taruichi in Tokyo

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Oesophagus, 750 yen;
Adam's apple, 700 yen;
Blubber 800 yen.

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

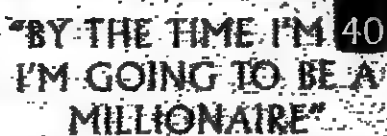
Marcy Parker, a tribal council member brought to lobby the commission, insisted: "Whales are the central focus of our culture. Even though we have not hunted the whale on the ocean in 70



Some supporters, including St. Lucia and Antigua in the Caribbean, said other members should understand that food from the sea was critically important to the economic security of coastal communities. (AP)

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE

Even the Great Barrier Reef, which experts give a relatively clean bill of health, is suffering from the effects of agricultural chemicals washed on to it from the rivers of Queensland.



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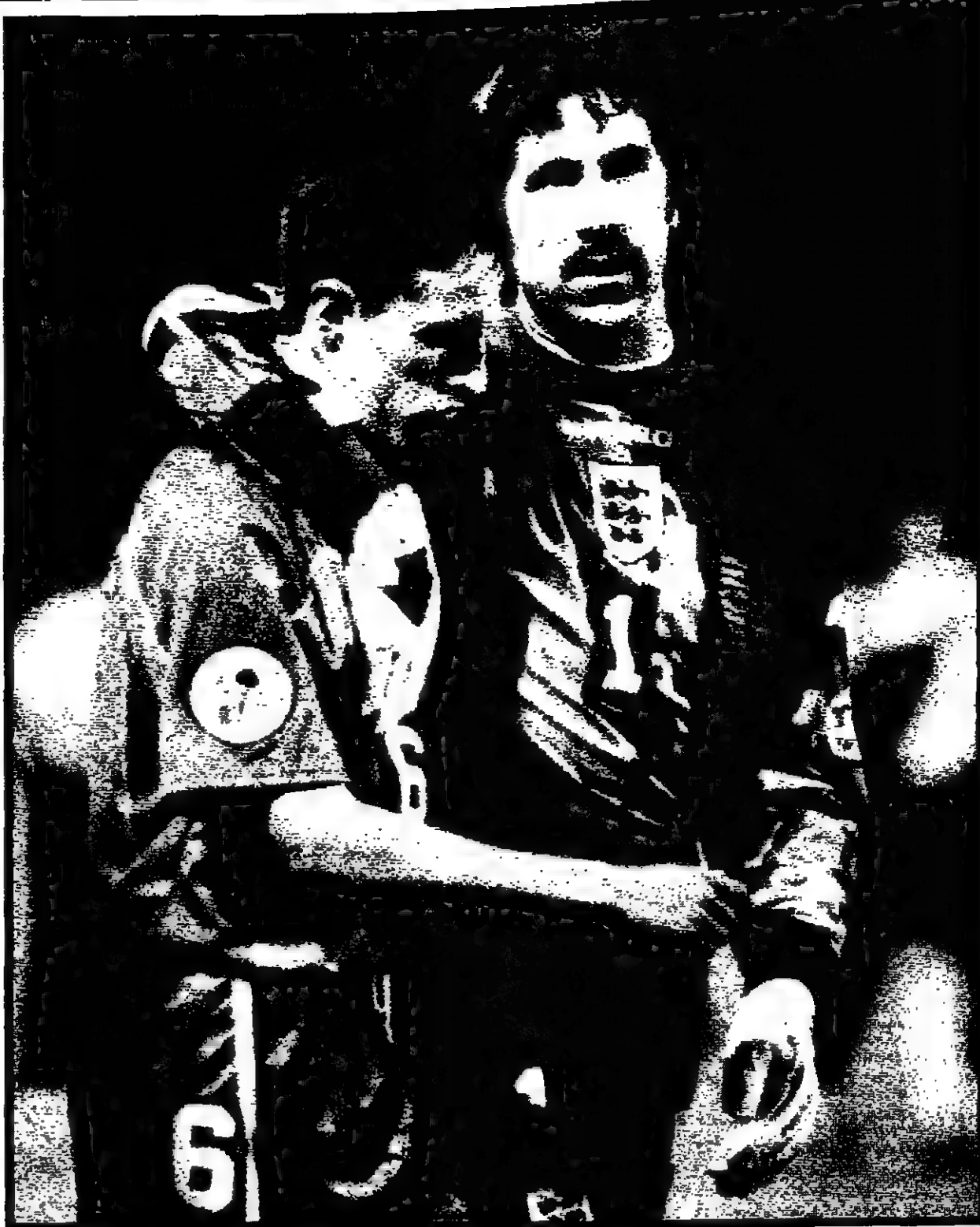
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Sheringham celebrates with Gascoigne: "I could walk into any pub in the land and start a Euro 96 conversation"



Seaman and Southgate after the semi-final: "England thrilled the heart; they consoled each other wonderfully"

The end of the affair



Lynne Truss was never a football fan but after three weeks of Euro 96 she is nursing a broken heart – and knows just how it feels to be gutted

Practically speaking, it is rather tricky writing while your head is in your hands. It involves typing with the elbows, while tears trickle towards the keys. For woe, woe, thrice woe. How weary, stale, flat and unprofitable seem to me all the uses of this world. Is it always like this, then? Who would choose to be a football supporter, if this is what happens? A lost semi-final, and I feel bereft, abandoned, lonely. Where did everybody go? I have heard people use the expression "gutted", rather freely in the past, but never before felt the moment when the cruel knife slips in and the purple slithering bits are yanked out and split on the sawdust.

Libby Purves rang me at half-time on Wednesday night. Things were quite cheerful at that stage, as you may remember. At my house, my friend Robert was just popping out for some beer (he found a queue), and I was laying out a fortifying Greek feast from Marks & Spencer. "Hello, who's this?" I said when the phone rang, assum-

ing it was a foot who didn't know about the football. It was Libby. "It's just a game, Lynne," she warned me. "I know, I know," I laughed. "Great goal from Shearer, though. Third minute! Good old Shearer, looks lovely in grey, really suits him, what a right, isn't it torture —"

But interrupting my Great Bores of Today speech, she made sure I got the message. Reading my Euro 96 pieces carefully over the past three weeks, she had intuited that I was getting a tad emotionally involved. "So don't forget," she insisted, "it's just a game."

I said yes, of course, thanks. Just a game. OK — and then hung up quickly, anxious not to miss Rudi Gullit on the telly, without whose wisdom, gentility and fabulous good looks life will no longer be worth living.

As I should perhaps remind myself here, three weeks ago I had not heard of

Rudi Gullit, despite his captaincy of the triumphant 1988 European Cup Dutch team and fruitful association with Chelsea. No, his name meant nothing. Someone told me that "Rude Hoolit" was spelt with a "G", and I remember saying: "OK, I believe you; but where does it go?"

Terry Venables could have been anybody in football; and when someone informed me he was the England coach, I assumed someone else must be manager. Aside from Gascoigne, the only name in the squad that meant anything to me was David Platt, which was why (once he was allowed to play) I cheered his every move. Good man, Platt. Underrated. Like a rock. No fuss about penalties, either: just bangs them in.

Instant expertise such as mine is wafer-thin, obviously. But I liked watching McManaman pumping those long, thin legs like a street



England fans in Trafalgar Square before Wednesday's semi-final against Germany

urchin in a Bert Hardy photograph: I liked chanting "Sea-Man, Sea-Man" (and learning the subtle difference in delivery from "Shear-er, Shear-er"). In any case, it seems that opinion and conviction count for as much as accuracy in discussing foot-

ball: as the ad says for Get Shorty, attitude plays a part. Assuming I do it in the next three days, I could now walk into any pub in the land and start a Euro 96 conversation, using my Platt gambit. It also raises a few envious eyebrows, of course, when I say I

watched the England-Holland match from aloft in the Fuji airship. I shall be telling that particular story like the Ancient Mariner for the rest of my pub-bore life.

But there was a nice surprise about tackling Euro 96 from a position of total igno-

rance. Making the decision to learn about football is unlike any other turning-point in life save perhaps being kidnapped by Moonies: once the initial move is made, no effort is required; momentum takes over. The fold welcomes you in, swallows you up, and washes your brain, and then you smile a lot, and wave a scarf.

Everyone is a secret member of this club, and I never knew. For years, men have protected me from facts and opinions concerning Stuart Pearce which were bubbling just below the surface the whole time. The moment I expressed a genuine interest, they opened their hearts, and out it came. Very generous, I call it. Friends who continue to say: "Football, who cares?" I feel quite sorry for. They have not been saved, as I have.

But it has its downside, and this is it. Gloom, despondency and quotations from Hamlet. Flie on! O! It's an unweeded garden that grows to seed; things rank and gross in nature possess it merely. On Thursday morning, I stared blankly at the wall, scarcely able to speak. Children were in tears on Wednesday night; women broke down; men locked themselves in lavatories; friends phoned each other up for consolation. I kept telling myself: "It's only a game, Libby says it's only a game," but it was of course more than that: it was a kind of mass hysteria from which

it's very hard to wake up. I do feel brainwashed. Every time I remember that it's all over for England, I start humming "Football's coming home" again, like a machine that won't be turned off.

So this is the end of Euro 96, as far as I'm concerned. If the stadium is empty on

Sunday, it serves them right, those Germans, whoever they are. England played so well in extra-time on Wednesday that it thrilled the heart; they consoled each other wonderfully; they shook hands like gentlemen; they took a lap of honour like kings.

My Euro 96 companion for three weeks — told me the news while I watched it on screen; and though I had traced my paper's emotional journey much as Libby Purves had traced my own, I was hardly prepared for such tear-jerking stuff.

Well, it's all over for England," came the first message. Then, shortly after, "England players on lap of honour. Germany celebrates. But I admit... I'm gutted." And the evening ended with the words that say it all. "As Germans go through, England heads held high. Thanks Terry for everything. Goodnight."

Lynne Truss's TV review, page 47

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'Don't think Aids doesn't happen to middle-class ladies'

When Francesca Luard discovered she had the Aids virus, she threw in her job on the *Daily Mail*, declaring that life was too short to waste about shopping. She must do something that engaged her heart and soul. So she got herself into art school and took up travelling — to Spain, France, Cuba, Jamaica, painting wherever she went.

Elisabeth Luard, her mother, happened to be writing a book called *Family Life*, an amusing record of how she and her husband Nicholas brought up their four children in odd places. Because she is a cookery writer, she interspersed her narrative with wholesome recipes. (As in Nora Ephron's novel *Heartburn*, her view was that cooking is part of life.) Her book was full of scintillating common sense, especially about the teenage years.

When Francesca, the eldest of her three daughters, became HIV positive at 26, the book was abandoned. After Francesca died, in November 1994, Elisabeth added extracts from Francesca's diary, and published *Family Life*, adding the subtitle *Birth, Death and the Whole Damn Thing*: a cheering book despite its melancholy coda.

The glamorous, handsome Luards had led such a charmed life. In the 1960s Nicholas Luard — "Wykehamist ex-Guards officer and the only satirist to wear a suit", in Richard Ingrams's words — founded the Establishment Club with Peter Cook.

Elisabeth, née Longmore, ran *Private Eye*'s office. When they married at St Margaret's, Westminster, *le tout Soho demi-monde* turned up. Their honeymoon at the Ritz in Paris was cut short by a telegram from *Private Eye* about a writ from Randolph Churchill. Until their first baby was born, their lodger was Jeffrey Bernard, not yet unwell. You get the picture.

As writers, they could bring up their children wherever they pleased. For eight years they lived in Andalusia, and for a time occupied Auberon Waugh's house in the Aude — Maison Wog, as the French locals pronounce Waugh. "As a family," Elisabeth writes, "we have always expected to be able to

Francesca Luard was gifted, beautiful... and doomed to die from Aids. Her mother salutes an indomitable spirit

do everything — writing, painting, performing, whatever is necessary to communicate our feelings."

And then the beautiful Francesca, with her first-class degree and brilliant mind (she played chess for the nation) who did not use needles or live dangerously made her terrible discovery. It is cruel, unfair, but it can happen. As Francesca wrote in her journal: "I have shared a bed with fewer men than I can count on both hands."

"I am guilty of prejudice myself," she wrote. "If I hear that someone not obviously homosexual is HIV-positive, I assume that they are either promiscuous or mainline drugs... Before I was diagnosed myself, when I first saw the pictures of Princess Diana holding the hands of an Aids patient (I hate the word 'victim') I remember thinking: 'Oh — so it's all right to touch them, then.' I truly believe that single thing did more to help people than anything else anyone has ever done."

Yesterday, the Princess of Wales joined the daughter of John Paul Getty Jr. Aileen Getty — another Aids victim — in launching a new charity for women with Aids. As argument rages over whether money spent on warning heterosexuals about Aids is mis-spent, all Elisabeth Luard can say is that she knows what it is like to have a daughter with the virus: "Death

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



is unbeatable. As a mother, you are used to fixing things. This was the first time in my life when I couldn't fix it."

They have no idea where she picked up the virus. Francesca suspected it might have been a former lover, who came from Lagos. Last Sunday Elisabeth shared a platform with Aileen Getty at a conference. "It was sponsored by *Hellol!* magazine, which made it irresistible. With us on the platform was a woman who had picked up her HIV virus because her boyfriend's condom broke."

"I don't understand objections to the Aids campaign. Surely if it hasn't spread into the heterosexual community, then the campaign has worked. It has nothing to do with promiscuity: it's like the lottery."

"But I don't steam around saying this is a plague and everyone is going to get it. It's a sexually transmitted disease. You catch it the way you catch pregnancy. Our experience is very salutary for people who think this doesn't happen to nice, middle-class ladies. I'm a nice middle-class lady."

Francesca's journal ("I've always wanted to have children, lots of them, a home and a husband... Now I'm all alone with this body of mine full of these little viruses... In a way — mad, black and twisted — it's very romantic. There you are in your prime, with a perfectly good body, a fine pair of legs, but with

this terrible thing inside you") is remarkably lacking in bitterness.

"She could sometimes be angry against the disease. She would say: 'Don't think I'm brave. And don't think I wouldn't rather it had happened to anyone else including you, Ma.' Which I thought was refreshingly honest. There was no sentiment or saintliness about her."

"It was important to give her independence — not easy for two writers, trying to get the money together. But my attitude is, I can always write another piece for *Menstrual Monthly* — as we call *Period Living* magazine."

In November 1994, Francesca's T-cell melanoma, a cancer of the blood, became rampant. In her last days at St Thomas', with a view of Big Ben from the grimy windows, her body became weak, her mind remaining sharp.

"The physical process of dying is not like in the movies, or in Shakespeare," Elisabeth says. "Medicine interferes dreadfully with what is going on in your spirit. Death has its own momentum."

Family life is resilient. They picked up the threads. Elisabeth's first novel, *Emerald*, won the W.H. Smith Thumping Good Read award last year, the top-selling novel in Safeways. Nicholas's next book is about the pilgrim's walk to Santiago de Compostela. The remaining children — Caspar, Honey and Poppy — congregate often around the family table in Wales.

"But it is hard for siblings, like losing a limb. Fran was the one who always knew what everyone was doing. She had time and patience and a capacity for listening. She was the catalyst who helped friends to change their lives."

Hence the fund they have founded in her name, Francesca's Friendship Trust, "to launch young people on a path that would otherwise be closed to them."

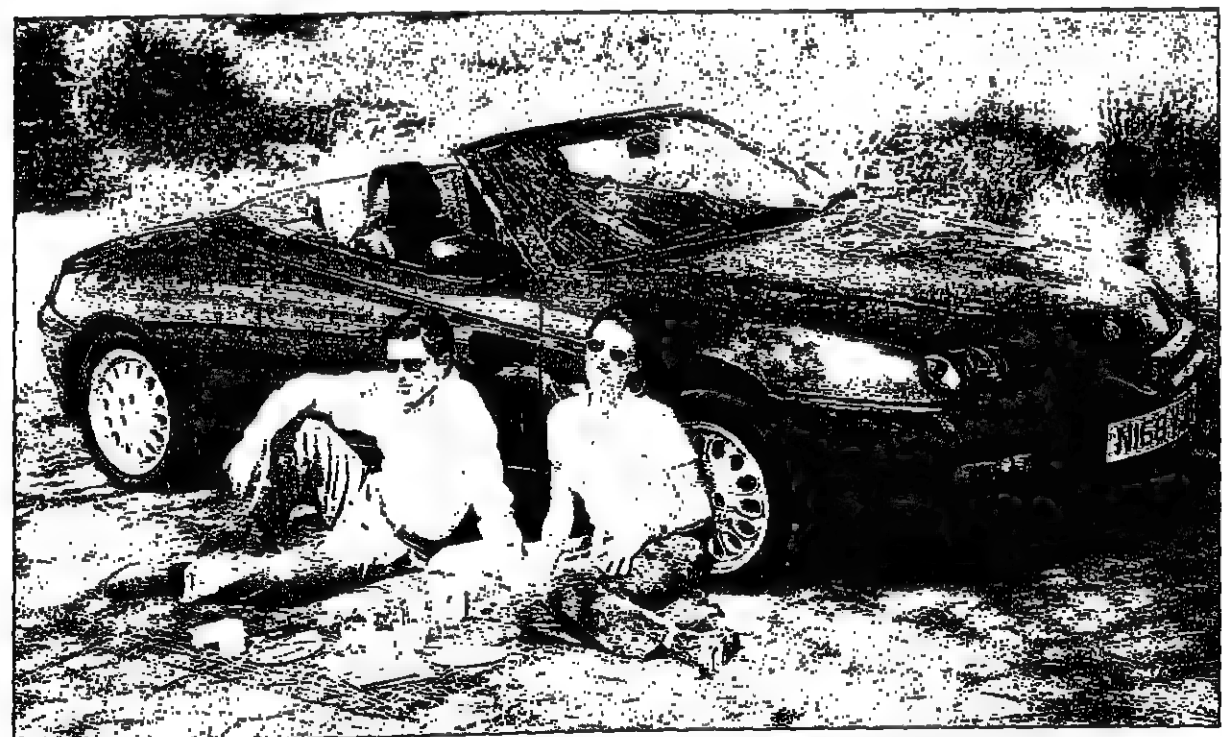
The invitation to the launch on Monday, at an exhibition of Francesca's work at the Todd Gallery in Needham Road, W11, shows Francesca, graceful and slender, in a self-portrait photograph, contemplating her own shadow: "Jungians tell me if you can face your own shadow you are well-balanced and unafraid."



Elisabeth Luard: "Fran had time and patience — she was the catalyst who helped to change lives"

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Today *The Times* gives you the chance to win the award-winning Alfa Romeo Spider, worth £22,000. All you have to do is collect six of the tokens which have been published in this newspaper over the past two weeks and send them with the completed application form below. (You can enter twice if you wish.)

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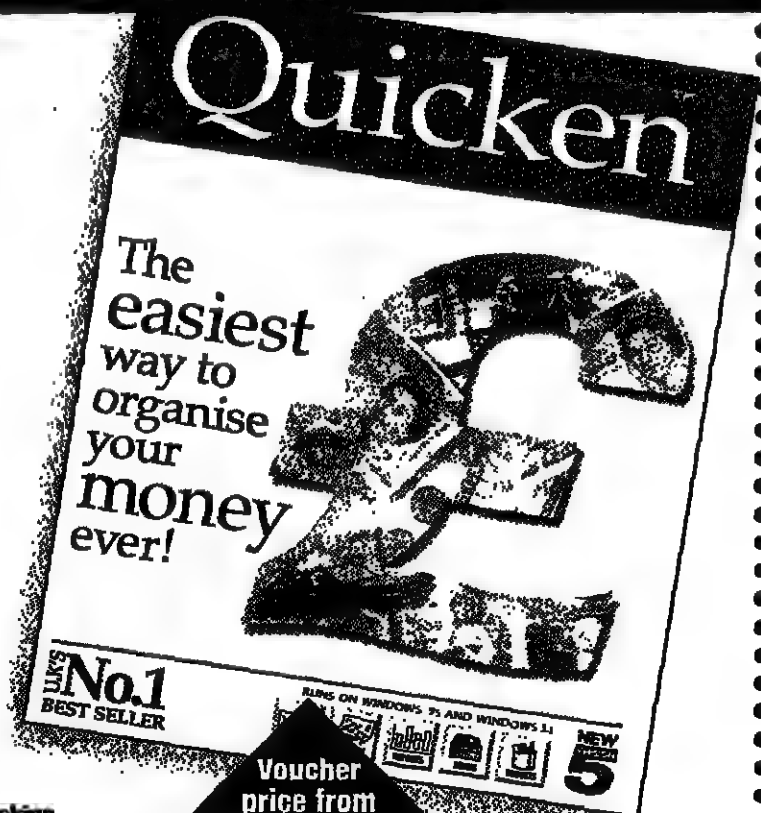


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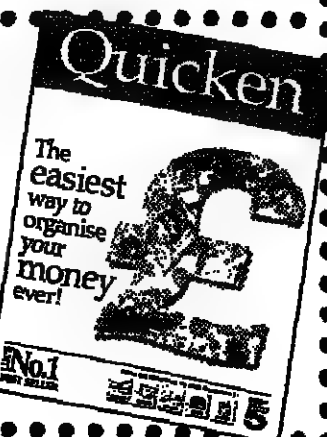
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Philip Howard



■ We stoics go by
Underground: Tu-be or
not Tu-be...

For a nation that prides itself on its pragmatism and restraint from emotion, the British are full of rage. And that is because underneath our standoffish faces and grey suits we are wildly emotional and impractical. We have caught road rage from the Californians, and so hoot furiously and curse violently, and sometimes murder a driver who dares to come near us. Footy rage takes out our unsporting vengeance for losing by throwing bottles at the police and smashing cars. EU rage brings out the latent hatred in the emotionally disadvantaged.

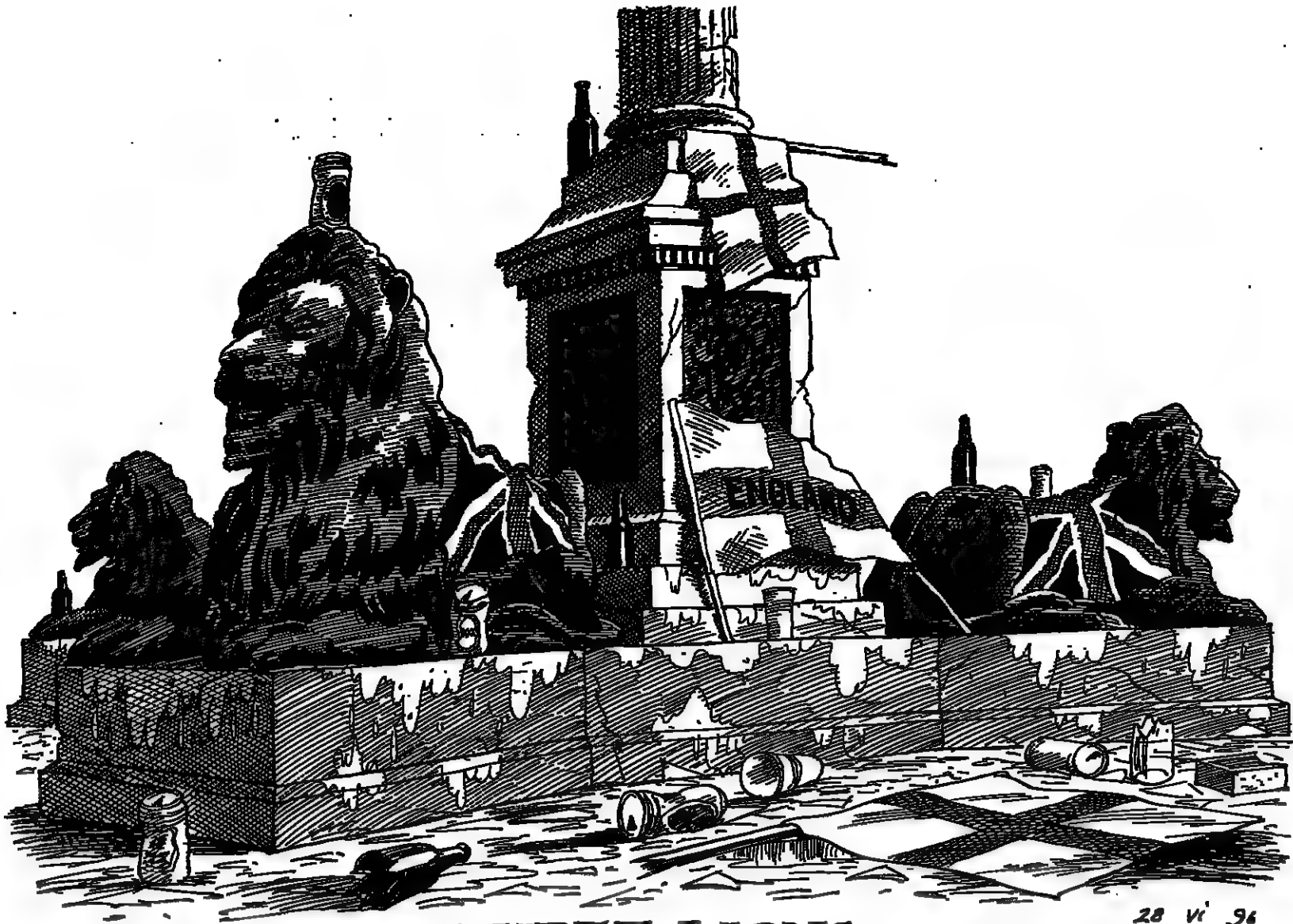
So why do we show so little bus rage and Tube rage? Heaven knows, travel by coach or train creates enough irritation to make Job swear like a footballer singing karaoke in a nightclub. And yet, on Wednesday night after the football, when Aslef drivers had started their strike on the London Underground early in order to make sure they were not turned into rats when the clocks struck midnight, there was no Tube rage. The coaches were so crowded that even the driver was standing. But we took it all in the Dunkirk spirit. Complete strangers in English war-paint streaked with tears had learned discussions with men in suits about the deficiencies of settling a match by a shoot-out at the OK Corral. Very occasionally, driven beyond endurance, passengers on the Northern Line strike and refuse to leave the train when its destination is changed in mid-journey. But they do it with the dignity of commuters who spend long days in the City in order to be able to afford to sleep in such pseudo-rural suburbs as Cockfosters and Burnt Oak. There is no Tube rage but To Barnet not To Edgware.

In the mongrel character of the British race, they are the Anglo-Saxon foot-soldiers, not the Norman cavalry or the Celtic chieftains waving claymores. When a Circle Line train has not circulated as far as Tower Hill in either direction while 34 District Line trains have passed for Richmond and Wimbledon, Uppminster and Upton Park, the nearest they come to impatience is to engage a party of tourists in Franglais in a discussion of the superiority of the Paris Metro in punctuality, efficiency, cleanliness and poetry of station names such as Babyline.

Just sometimes they purse their lips and mutter inaudibly. When a Circle Line is switched to Metropolitan at Baker Street without intelligible notice. When the escalator at Holborn or Archway is out of commission again, and accordingly for the next five years. When the driver or station operative makes vital announcements that manage to be both ear-piercing and unintelligible because of the dirty medieval loudspeakers. When the train stops in a tunnel again, and the temperature rises and the driver makes aggressive apologies. When the determined Finnish student pulled me off a crowded train at Aldgate because her bag had become inextricably locked into the zip of my Puffer (we had to cut me free, and the next Circle Line did not drop by for 40 minutes). When we can see six station operatives drinking tea, playing cards and smoking in their staff common room while we wander the platforms in ignorance and despair.

Then we may frown and pace. But we are the infantry of Agincourt and the Somme. Our qualities are Stoic endurance and humour in hard times. Bloody Normans drive around on their chargers or little tin boxes on wheels, exhibiting the childish rage of their tribe. I even met bike rage on the Bayswater Road yesterday, from arrogant pedalers trying to run down pedestrians who dared to cross. But we were not enraged at this outrage. As any Anglo-Saxon pedestrian can tell you, that would be a waste of time and temper. And as any Anglo-Saxon philosopher can tell you, outrage has nothing to do with either out or rage. The word comes, appropriately, from the Norman *ultra*, Latin *ultra* "over the top". And over the top is the English vice of football and road ragers.

When the Tube and buses go on strike, the poor bloody foot-soldiers show the enduring patience of the tribe. Cursing the Tube, we walk to work across every park in London if we are lucky. We show neither Tube nor foot rage, while all around the streets are jammed with Normans bursting with road rage. And we get there before them. And in a better temper.



Is Eros our nemesis?

Usually, I smile when the boffins tell me that a new galaxy has been discovered. It always comes out that the new one is unimaginably greater than all the previous ones put together, multiplied by many more numbers of light-years than the last one. Of course, the heavens and those who seek more knowledge of them are doing noble work, even if they don't actually bring back a couple of stars and a spare galaxy.

But somehow, I stopped smiling when the boffins told me that a new asteroid is due to hit the Earth roughly one hundred thousand years from now.

It is an awesome thought, is it not? But just why is it awesome? After all, none of us will be here to see the great collision, and as for the boffins, it is all in the day's work for them. I wondered why it was called Eros — after all, Eros is the god of love — but I discovered that our hero (villain, surely?) had been thus named when it was discovered in 1998, and nobody then had any inkling of what was going to happen to it some 100,102 years hence.

But of course, *nothing* is going to happen to the colliding asteroid, because it is inconceivable that the people living a hundred thousand years from now will not have found a way to deflect or explode their grim fate.

Stop for a moment and think of the machine on which I have put the words you have just read. We call it an AteX, the brand name. It is, for me and my colleagues, a godsend, something immensely useful with no frills. With it I can, say, switch whole paragraphs to a different place in two or three seconds.

That's nothing: the AteX is a boon, but bigger computers can do the AteX's work a thousand times over, and a thousand times more rapidly. And how many years ago was it that we all used typewriters because typewriters were the most powerful and useful machines for disposing of the fountain-pen? And before that — the quill pen? And at every stop on the road, one by one, we marvelled that such things could be, and we were certain that nothing more remarkable would ever be seen in the world.

Why has the world refused to throw in the towel, considering the state it is in? Presumably, it waits for better times, and even when the world is plainly off its head, it has always rubbed its hands and said what next? What I am asking is

Armageddon will arrive in the shape of an asteroid, we are told — but we have 100,000 years to prove the boffins wrong

why do we believe so entirely that the world goes in only one way: towards the best, but never towards the worst? No one knows how the Eros asteroid will avoid Earth's threatening fate. But long before — thousands of years before — it will be a mere paragraph in a history book. (Or rather, it won't be: dozens of thousands of pupils will imitate their work with one tiny flash, and indeed all the works of Shakespeare will be known to everybody in the world by one "ping", and a pretty quiet ping at that.)

You will easily have spotted the absurdity: my feeble guesses at what will be happening a hundred thousand years hence will be nothing to the real thing. How do we know that human beings won't all have three legs, or no legs? How do we know that there will be any human beings, with how many legs? For that matter, we might not have all gone to live on a passing asteroid, particularly if the sun has gone out. Come, Shakespeare must survive for ever, we say. A tiny voice says, "must"? A much tinier voice says that schoolchildren are growing up without having to learn that 267 multiplied by 35 makes 9345, because they can find the answer by pressing a knob on their calculators.

Which brings me to the heart of my wanderings. I mentioned Shakespeare a few lines above, but only to guess how clumsy volumes would be superseded by, say, a special kind of light. That certainly will happen, but...

And there I stop, frozen with terror. A hundred thousand years — think of it, why should they be like us? Why should they read or write, or if they do, why should they not read and write in some way utterly different from what we know? The ape-man crawled out of the mud and — over millions of years — gradually became *Homo sapiens*. But what certainty have we that

over those hundred thousand years the tide will not have gone out? We all believe that man gets better, despite the fallbacks, but there is a good deal of evidence that in very many countries it simply is not true. We do not need to spread out the bloody cape of the Holocaust again; Rwanda will do, and the dreadful Sudan.

Let us put aside the chances of Earth being smashed into powder by our wandering asteroid, and let us just think of those hundred thousand years. I say that it will be very difficult, very difficult indeed, for human beings to remain recognisable as human in our sense.

I come back to where I started, but now even more self-chastened. I am no expert stargazer, though I can pick out a few well-known travellers through the skies, and I have told before the story of my horror when, visiting Australia, I looked up into a clear night, only to see the wrong stars.

The boffins are beyond me; again and again, they tell us that there is a new star or constellation, and they coolly tell us that this is just an accident? (I pause to ask them if God didn't make all this, who or what did? You will find his answer — if you get one at all — so feeble that I am almost ready to rush into the nearest church.)

Next, the boffins murmur that our tiny Earth surely cannot be the only peopled body in the firmament, and it would be a nonpareil boast to claim that

ours is the only two-legged figure which creates Mozart. The ready boffins say that the immense numbers of heavenly bodies which are whirling round the universe must surely mean that we are not alone.

Whether the others look like us is a delicate question: if we met a shrunken purple six-thousand-year-old lizard, 14 miles high and determined to eat all the small babies in view, we would have proved that there are other creatures in the universe, but the babies' mothers might be worried.

Let us come back to Eros, where the trouble started. As far as I know, Eros has never before given any trouble, and it is not clear how this enormous missile has been turned in the direction of Earth. It seems that Eros has a somewhat irregular orbit and the hunk of matter (some say rock, some say iron) is gathering speed. The lugubrious Professor James of the University of Arizona (dammit, I've just been there myself) says "... there is not the slightest chance that any human being living on Earth at that time could survive the catastrophe. A collision with Eros ... would be four times more violent than the collision with the asteroid or comet 65 million years ago, and that killed most of the dinosaurs. It would have the same effect as several full-scale nuclear wars taking place simultaneously ..."

Very likely, very likely, but 100,000 years gives plenty of time to work out a way of steering the erratic Eros in a different direction, and I don't think it will, in the end, cause trouble. What I am thinking about is also the 100,000. There is no point in saying that we shall all be dead long before the 100,000 comes up — but what about the first hundred of the 100,000? Forget 100,000 and think of the first *tranche*, for a hundred years can destroy great empires. Yes, indeed, they can: it is not a joke to call Britain's *ci-devant* Empire great, for it was. And now?

Here we are, talking about the infinite, while dreadful creatures crawl in and out, believing that they are running a Government. If we agree that we are not the only sentient creatures in the universe, surely the ones we know and see and hear cannot be the best. But then, why do none of them speak out? Come, come, it is obvious: if you were a creature from outer space, and turned your space-telescope towards this country, would you not run for your space-life?

Bernard Levin

lia, I looked up into a clear night, only to see the wrong stars.

The boffins are beyond me; again and again, they tell us that there is a new star or constellation, and they coolly tell us that this is just an accident? (I pause to ask them if God didn't make all this, who or what did? You will find his answer — if you get one at all — so feeble that I am almost ready to rush into the nearest church.)

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All change

CENTURIES of tradition are to come to an end this autumn at Westminster School, one of the country's great academic establishments. For the first time since it was founded by Elizabeth I in 1560, the school has appointed a female housemaster.

Former pupils, who include Sir Peter Ustinov, Lord Lawson of Blaby and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, were informed in the school newsletter yesterday that Fiona Freckleton, mathematics tutor and international oarswoman, will take charge of Wren's house from next term. She insists that she will be housemaster rather than housemistress.

"I took a few deep breaths before making the decision," admits David Summerscale, the Head Master. "But she is outstanding. The news has been very well received by the boys, and the staff are delighted because it represents a new look and the feeling that anybody of merit is likely to gain preferment."

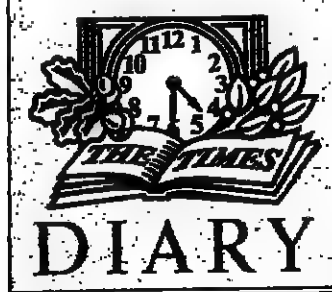
Dan Topolski, rowing coach and Old Wet, is delighted by the news. "She's a smashing lady," he says. "I don't think even the crusty old buggers will be displeased." Hubert Fierda, QC, who was at

Westminster in the early 1950s, said he was resigned to a female housemaster at some stage. "Everything is so changed," he said. "They have already had a female head of school."

● Oh for the cloistered life! Sir David Williams, the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, who starts handing out degrees



Fiona Freckleton: oarswoman turned housemaster



today, made a recent flight to South Africa sitting next to a pretty young brunette. Buried in his books, he all but ignored her for the journey. The next day his wife revealed her identity: Liz Hurley. "It is one thing that still leaves me grieving slightly," admits Williams.

Service break

WIMBLEDON players looking to boost their performance have rejected the usual dietary fads and routines this year. Porridge is now on the menu.

Volleyball, a popular breakfast haunt for top seeds, has had to put bowls of the Scottish stodge on its menu for the first time, and regulars, who include Mary Pierce and our own Tim Henman, swear by it. However, Andre Agassi, who has long been the restaurant's best

customer, refused to try it. "He wanted to plaster the walls with it," says owner Louis Pandakas. "He stuck with his usual pancakes and fruit." And look what happened to him.

Euro one!

OVER AT THE *Daily Mirror* bunker, Piers "Guten" Morgan, sprightly Editor, is still trying to live down an editorial conference he chaired on Monday after England beat Spain on Saturday. Guten demanded that descendants of famous Spaniards from history should be traced and asked how they felt about being trounced by the English. "Who did you have in mind?" a newsman asked. "Well," he replied, "Mussolini for a start."

Notwithstanding Guten's love of Mussolini, his prediction for the final was England against France, for which he had ambitious plans: a special edition of the *Daily Mirror*, to be called *Le Mirror*, extolling the virtues of French girls and cooking. And no mention of Germans at all.

● Terry Dicks, the unfortunate MP who fell and broke his hip on the Abbey Moor golf course in Kent a couple of weeks ago, is to have that painful occasion immortalised. After discussions in the clubhouse, it has been decided

that the third hole, the location of the Dicks drama, is to be named 'Terry's Potty'.

Well, Brian

THE OMENS are far from propitious for one of England's remaining participants in Euro 96. ITV's chief commentator, the Voice of Football, Brian Moore, is down to talk us through the final between Germany and the Czech Republic, and will be hoping he doesn't suffer a repeat performance of his previous experience with the two sides.

In a European championship final two decades ago between Czechoslovakia and West Germany, Moore commented with a dicky turn. "I'd eaten something which really upset me, and literally gave a running commentary as I had to run to the loo before, at half-time and after the match. And then there was extra time."



"Back to reality, eh?"

nal two decades ago between Czechoslovakia and West Germany, Moore commented with a dicky turn. "I'd eaten something which really upset me, and literally gave a running commentary as I had to run to the loo before, at half-time and after the match. And then there was extra time."

Designer TV

JOHN BIRT's tentacles are grappling with every aspect of the BBC



as his revolution continues. Signs are now set on an identity change. Design consultants have been briefed to examine the corporation's logo and come up with a new image for the millennium.

Lambie-Nairn & Co, who revamped the BBC and BBC2 logos six years ago, are said to have been asked to draw up some options for a change that is likely to cost licence-fee-payers millions of pounds. When BT changed its logo it cost a cool £60 million. The BBC is hedging its bets. "There are no specific ideas at present, but that's not to say the identity will remain static."

Hold on to Becket's casket

Turbulent priest or saint, asks Henry Mayr-Harting

A showy and worldly Chancellor; made Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162 to the disgust of many learned churchmen; martyred at the apparent instigation of King Henry II in his own cathedral on a stormy December afternoon in 1170; canonised in 1173; and a splendid Limoges reliquary, dating from scarcely a quarter of a century after Thomas à Becket's death, now about to be sold at Sotheby's; was there ever a more meteoric rise to official sainthood?

The best comment I ever read on this was written in an examination by a BA candidate 20 years ago. The gist was that during his archiepiscopate Becket was a bag of trouble, but after his death nobody dreamt of saying that he was the man who had quarrelled with his King, who had ridden roughshod over aristocratic rights in Kent, who had broken the unity of the bench of bishops. No, he was at once the great martyr, working miracles at his tomb, healing not the great, but Canterbury bakers and the like who came to venerate him. Before 1200, his relics were being honoured on altars at such places as Saragossa and Bologna, and his case, and what he had died for, were being discussed in learned circles at Paris and Cracow.

What did Becket die for? He did not die for his faith; everyone shared that. He did not really die for the rights of the Roman or English Church (pace some historians); many of his opponents among the English bishops were equally keen on those. He died fighting for the rights of the church of Canterbury, Bishops and abbots of that time understood all about the universal Church, but from day to day they were more taken up with the affairs of their own church, Canterbury or London or St Albans — or Rome! Heads of Oxford colleges know all about Oxford University or even the Commonwealth of Learning, but from day to day their thoughts are more likely to be with the advancement and the concerns of Balliol or Queen's.

If Henry II ever said "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?", he said it not at the climax of a fit of neurotic drunkenness in the manner of Peter O'Toole's brilliant act, but because Becket complained that the younger Henry had been crowned King without his officiating, the violation of a Canterbury right. With almost his dying breath he commended himself to St Alphege. Of the whole heavenly kingdom, it was on this obscure saint that his mind alighted in the crisis. St Alphege was an 11th-century Archbishop of Canterbury, pecked to death with chicken bones by drunken Danes, not for defending the faith but for the material possessions of the church of Canterbury.

If it was all so particular and local, why the sensation? Partly because of the times. Thanks to the rising 12th-century cathedral schools of France, the drama of the Becket conflict was acted out before a theologically educated public such as had not existed in Europe for a very long time. Whenever there is a growing theological awareness in the Latin West, there is an intensification of thinking about the Church's eternal or spiritual significance and jurisdiction.

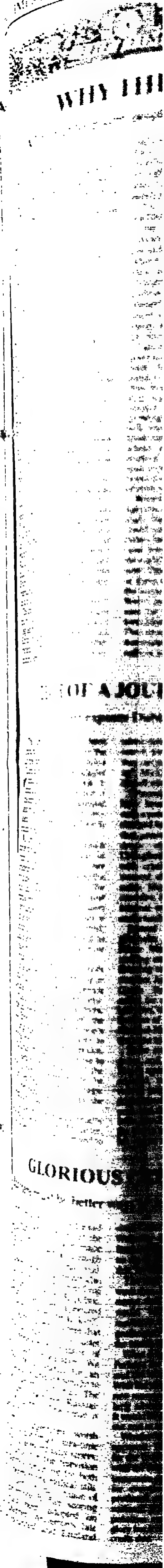
Several of Becket's supporters were Paris theologians. It would be natural for them to see the archbishop's struggle as a great instance of the Church's struggle against earthly power, indeed of the cosmic struggle between good and evil, as represented in the Apocalypse, which marked the whole of Christian history. So it was seen by the theologians of Peter the Chanter's school in Paris who debated the issue of Becket's martyrdom in the generation afterwards. Even more than from Canterbury, it was from Paris that the fame of Thomas à Becket would radiate throughout Latin Christendom.

There is, however, a point more personal to Becket which should not be overlooked. It would be quite wrong to think of him as an obstinate, worldly man, whose conversion to religious ways on becoming archbishop was a mere performance, and who would never have been regarded as a saint but for the manner of his death. His contemporaries thought of him as undergoing a kind of martyrdom even during the struggles and exile of his lifetime; and Frank Barlow has observed that those around Becket saw more than a sense of theatre, and were "conscious of an innate and constant greatness".

David Knowles once wrote that in history there are those such as Cicero or Abraham Lincoln whose personality reveals itself in every word they wrote or spoke, and others whose charm and power were felt by their contemporaries but whose surviving words do not conduct "the magnetic spark". He put Becket among the latter. But Becket was a truly charismatic man, or else he could hardly have retained the loyalties of so many highly intelligent and able supporters for so long, to the certain detriment of their careers. There was no disguising his distinction. Passing him on the road during his exile in France, a knight observed: "That's the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Devil."

Let us hope, therefore, that Becket's casket, with its enamel scenes representing his martyrdom and ascent into Heaven, will stay in England to remind us of this great Anglo-Norman and of a passage in our history significant for all of Europe.

The author is a Fellow of St Peter's College, Oxford.





WHY THE G7

All change for places, people and purposes

In November 1975, President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing invited five friends — Gerald Ford, Harold Wilson, Helmut Schmidt, Aldo Moro and Takeo Miki — to Rambouillet for a quiet country weekend. A young Giscard adviser drew up the brief sketch of topics that passed for an agenda. His name was Raymond Barre.

M Barre has a house party of a different order on his hands this week. As Mayor of Lyons, he is playing host to 8,000 officials and journalists — foot-soldiers and bystanders in the great political tournament that is annually staged by the misnamed Group of Seven.

That first meeting offered only a few brief platitudes to an inattentive public. But it did the world real service. The informal exchange of views at Rambouillet helped to avert the genuine risk that, with their countries gripped by recession, Western governments might respond to the collapse of the postwar system of managed exchange rates and the 1973 oil shock by reverting to the beggar-my-neighbour protectionist policies of the 1930s. The G-idea caught on.

Privacy and spontaneity soon disappeared. So did the exclusive concentration on economics. Jimmy Carter, who was much happier talking about human rights and the then-fashionable North-South dialogue, saw to that as early as 1977.

Politics was always liable to crowd out economics once these gatherings grew and became a fixture of the Western calendar. The cast-list of principals has ballooned along with the audience. Canada was added early, the European Commission obtained a seat in the second row and so eventually did Russia, on a grudging Seven-plus-one guest ticket. President Chirac has summoned Boutros Boutros Ghali, the heads of the international financial institutions and others to the Lyons table.

The agenda has grown too, with the result that most of the decisions announced have long been necessarily pre-cooked. President Clinton, for example, could confidently call yesterday for firm action to combat international terrorism; he knew that no over-

nights brainstorming would be necessary. Experts have been beavering away for months and 40 specific recommendations for fighting terrorism and organised crime were ready for signature long before the bomb exploded in Dhahran.

The one thing that has shrunk is confidence in the practicality, or even the virtue, of co-ordinating macroeconomic policies. That is not only because the media circus has made it awkward to criticise each other's policies too harshly, but because ideas about the role of government have changed. The main intellectual contribution to these summits in the 1980s was the theme, pressed by Margaret Thatcher under the warm gaze of Ronald Reagan, that governments served their people best by lightening the State's touch on the economic tiller.

Jacques Chirac, still a believer in activist government, would like to turn the clock back. He has called for joint action to comfort and protect voters who are worried that, in an increasingly globalised economy, they will lose out to dynamic new Asian players. He even hopes to shake America's growing resistance to development aid. He will secure warm words but little more. Even on debt reduction for poor countries whose economies are unable to recover without such generosity, where there could and should be a deal, he faces stubborn opposition from Helmut Kohl to the release of even a fraction of the IMF's gold reserves.

Before Dhahran forced terrorism up the agenda, this year's summit was embarrassingly short of topics around which everyone could unite. When President Yeltsin cancelled, he exposed how much these summits now revolve around Russia: Seven-minus-the-eight barely makes even a quorum now. That is not unhealthy. An early bonus of these events was that they folded Japan, the world's second largest economy, into the West's inner councils. The West cannot ensure the success of Russia's anxious transformation; but it can help at the margin. That strategically vital objective has not only dominated these summits since 1991; it suffices to justify their continued existence.

DEATH OF A JOURNALIST

A tragic murder exposes Dublin's weakness

Twelve Irish citizens have so far been murdered by Dublin's criminal gangs in the last three years. But the killing of Veronica Guerin, the country's leading investigative journalist, has a special power to shock. It marks an ugly escalation of violence out of the criminal ghetto. The death of a talented and principled journalist is dramatic evidence of the Dublin Government's failure to maintain the rule of law.

Ms Guerin's death has the power to touch far beyond Ireland because of the manner in which she lived her life. She used her considerable investigative gifts to expose the two greatest threats to the security of the Irish State, para-military violence and organised crime. In her anxiety to alert others to danger she risked, and ultimately lost, her own life but she never faltered. Although shot and attacked, she refused to slacken in her pursuit of evil. Her work must not cease with her death.

Veronica Guerin's reporting not only exposed the scale of criminal racketeering in Ireland, it also revealed the desperate inadequacies of the police and Government. She provided a detailed picture of the lives, practices and para-military links of the criminals fighting for control of Dublin's lucrative drugs trade. She did far more to discomfort these men than did the Irish police, the Garda Síochána. The criminals chose to target Ms Guerin rather than any of the detectives who might be expected to be investigating them. That in itself is tragic testimony to her special skill and to the police's spectacular failure.

The sense of state impotence was cruelly underlined by the Irish Justice Minister, Nora Owen, yesterday when she seemed to

admit defeat even before she had started the search for Ms Guerin's killer. "People feel they can just do this without any answerability", Ms Owen commented. She should ask herself why.

Criminals feel emboldened to act as they have because the Irish Government has such a poor security record. No one has been charged for any of the 11 gangland murders that preceded Veronica Guerin's death. A drugs sting organised last year in Uxlingford, Co Kilkenny, ended farcically with criminals tipped off and the police accused of facilitating the import of cannabis. Moreover, since the end of the IRA ceasefire, the Irish police, already riven by internal wrangles, have found themselves underfunded and overstretched.

Instead of policies there have been platitudes. The normally judicious Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, has been making excuses for the police rather than listening to the more hard-headed of their number. John Ferry, general secretary of the Garda Representative Association, has called for a tightening of Ireland's liberal bail laws, which allow criminals remarkable freedom of manoeuvre. He has also echoed Michael Howard by arguing for reform of the right to silence.

These steps, along with superior intelligence and co-ordination between all the State's agencies, could make a difference. If adopted, such measures might not only reduce gangland activity in Dublin, they might also do something to deal with a more profound threat to the security of both the Irish Republic and the United Kingdom — the killers of the IRA. There are no excuses left for not acting now.

GLORIOUS CREDIT

But there must be better ways to decide the winner

A nation has been in mourning since the sad defeat of the England football team at the hands of Germany. That loss has been made all the more galling by the method through which it occurred. This is no mere nationalist gripe. The same miserable technique also decided the fate of the other semi-final between France and the Czech Republic. Indeed the eventual victors there appeared to play for penalties right from the kick-off.

All observers of football seem to agree that while the shoot-out has drama it is an utter lottery and an inappropriate means of settling contests of such importance. We concur. There must be a search for an alternative that would give greater weight to skill and discourage defensive tactics. The present system is a cross between Russian roulette and the OK Corral. The issue is what should replace it.

There are several suggestions worth considering. One is to continue extra-time indefinitely until one side eventually scores: this could make trouble for the television schedules and be deeply draining for both teams. Others have been more radical still. If goalposts were wider, or, say, made of rubber, it might promote higher scoring football. If that had been adopted on Wednesday then Darren Anderson's late effort would have counted and England

would have advanced to the final. Perhaps Wembley like Wimbledon would benefit from brighter balls. More scores might then be six-all than nil-nil or one-one. None of this, however, could prevent tied matches.

The idea that appeals most to us would work thus. Extra time would proceed as now except that every five minutes both sides would withdraw a player. Eventually, inevitably, even if there were only the two goalkeepers left, the net would be found and the match ended.

What if by some chance even this failed? Perhaps the goalies too could be hauled off and the managers invited to replace them. With the youthful Glenn Hoddle, England's new manager-elect, this would be a particularly advantageous system for the English. It would be no more random than the shoot-out and at least as entertaining.

Whichever solution is adopted one truth is apparent. This has been a fine tournament for the England team. Vilified at the outset, with the star player widely lambasted as an immature drunk and the coach castigated for everything imaginable, the side has produced performances which have made national pride swell. The cruel device of penalties may have denied them ultimate glory but it cannot cheat them of the glorious credit due.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Asylum-seekers caught in vicious circle by benefits curb

From Mr Daniel Machover

Sir, As the solicitors for the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and Ms B in their recent Court of Appeal victory (report and leading article, June 22), we are surprised that the Home Secretary (letter, June 25) seems intent on continuing to use bogus statistics in his defence of the Government's illogical withdrawal of benefits from asylum-seekers.

First, on the Government's own figures, for the period 1992 to August 1995, over one third of all asylum-seekers were either recognised as full refugees under the terms of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention or granted "exceptional leave to remain" (ELR). People granted ELR are recognised by the Government as having fled civil war or having suffered severe oppression or persecution.

Further, again on the Government's own statistics, there is no evidence that genuine asylum-seekers make their application "on arrival" while so-called bogus claimants for asylum apply "in-country". In fact, two thirds of claimants apply "in-country" and two thirds of recognised refugees applied "in-country". Also, the majority of "in-country" asylum-seekers apply within 28 days of arrival in the United Kingdom.

Withdrawing benefits from people who are appealing a refusal of their asylum claim is also highly illogical. Many appellants either win their case or are granted ELR at the end of the procedure. It defies reason for Parliament to lay down a statutory appeal mechanism but expect appellants to live on thin air for periods of 18 months or more while their appeal works its way through the system (through no fault of the asylum-seekers).

As the Court of Appeal found, withdrawing benefits renders the appeal rights " nugatory". The Government's concession, to pay back-dated benefits to claimants who are ultimately successful on appeal, does not go far enough. How are appellants supposed to survive in the meantime? Is any private landlord, having been told by the Government that the vast majority of asylum-seekers are bogus, likely to let accommodation on the promise of rent once

an asylum appeal is successful?

All this goes to show that the Government's benefits changes have never been carefully targeted at "bogus asylum-seekers", but that it was always known that many genuine asylum-seekers would be left destitute, after fleeing persecution or civil war in their own countries.

It must be wrong to cause considerable suffering to these individual human beings when Parliament has put an appeal system in place which is designed to distinguish between good and bad asylum claims. The Government should take the opportunity handed to it by the Court of Appeal to salvage a reputation for British justice, rather than to establish one for British meanness.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL MACHOVER,
Christian Fisher (solicitors),
42 Museum Street,
Bloomsbury, WCI.
June 25.

From the Director of
Amnesty International

Sir, The Home Secretary claims that even those who apply after entry will qualify for benefit "if they are trapped here because of upheaval in their country". He omits to mention, however, that such asylum-seekers will only qualify for benefits if he has made a special declaration that their country has recently undergone a major upheaval (such as a military coup). Since the new regulations came into force in February he has not made any such declarations — not even in respect of Liberia, where there has been a tragic escalation of human rights abuses in recent months.

Mr Howard's claim that additional resources have been devoted to the asylum process since the late 1980s is certainly true. But these resources have been woefully insufficient: since new procedures were established in 1993, the average time taken to reach an initial decision on new applications has increased significantly and the backlog of outstanding cases has grown from 46,000 to 67,630. Furthermore, because of a chronic underfunding of the appeals system, the backlog of asylum appeals now grows by 2,000 every month.

The Court of Appeal's ruling — and its damning indictment of current policy — provides the Government with an opportunity to pause and reflect. What is needed is a credible and properly resourced process that can fully resolve asylum cases both fairly and expeditiously — thus minimising the burden on public funds. The Asylum and Immigration Bill will not produce such a process — and we believe Mr Howard knows it.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BULL, Director,
Amnesty International
(United Kingdom),
99-119 Rosebery Avenue, EC1.
June 26.

From Lord Donaldson of Lynton

Sir, The Home Secretary's letter seems to suggest that the fact that Parliament has approved subordinate legislation prevents the courts considering whether such legislation exceeds the limits set by the primary legislation upon which it is based.

If so, this is an entirely novel constitutional doctrine which in many cases would enable the executive to bypass the detailed parliamentary scrutiny and right of amendment inherent in the primary legislative process.

No judge or retired judge who has been concerned with judicial review can have any doubt as to the seriousness of the problem which the Home Secretary is seeking to address; but the denial of essential welfare benefits is objectionable upon a number of grounds.

Would not a better solution be to require "in-country" applicants to show that their allegedly well-founded fear of persecution arose for the first time after their arrival in this country and to do so as a precondition to any consideration being given to the substance of their application?

Provided that this situation was made clear to them upon their arrival and that they had a short period of grace in which to take advice and formulate their claim, it would surely be unexceptionable.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. DONALDSON,
House of Lords.
June 25.

Digging deep for the millennium

From Mr Brian H. Gill

Sir, I am delighted, as a professional archaeologist, to see that the Millennium Exhibition, so ably defended by Simon Jenkins ("The greatest show on earth", June 22), will have a pavilion celebrating "time past".

What Mr Jenkins and his fellow commissioners may not be aware of is that a few metres below the exhibition site (and indeed below much of the Greenwich peninsula) there lies one or more land surfaces of the second to (perhaps) the sixth millennium BC, buried in and beneath peat beds up to 5.5 metres thick.

What makes this site so archaeologically impressive and important is not only its area (up to about 100 hectares) and the depth of its stratigraphy, but also the very large number of records of bore-hole investigation. These offer the possibility of identifying discrete areas which could have been lived or worked on at various stages (dependent on the state of mean sea level at the time) of the prehistoric period, and thus recoverable through archaeological investigation.

The depth of the peat layers and their likely waterlogged condition means that the quality of preservation of organic material will be unusually high. This in turn opens the way to creating a "virtual reality" display of the highest quality.

The archaeological community is now capable of producing this, on time and within budget, and, most

importantly, within the constraints of the development programme.

I look forward to this happening: the Millennium Exhibition would, I believe, be the loser without this contribution.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN H. GILL,
261 Grove Street,
Deptford Wharf, SE8.
June 23.

From Mr Antony Snow

Sir, Robert Breckman (letter, June 18) rightly questions whether it is fair to expect business to fund any shortfall in the budget for the Millennium Exhibition. If, as the present Government believes, market forces should prevail, then ministers should hesitate before cajoling British industry into providing ever increasing amounts of financial support to non-profit institutions, including the arts.

While the Government continues to reduce its support for the arts every year, British industry and commerce — which already contribute some £68 million a year — should continue to enhance those aspects that match their commercial interests or their sense of corporate citizenship. This is rather different from continually bailing out ministers in their responsibilities to us all.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY SNOW,
16 Rumbold Road, SW6.

Voice of the BBC

From Mr Michael Sullivan

Sir, Mr Tony Hall, chief executive, BBC News, tells us (Media and Marketing, June 26) that he envisages "news programmes, set in a real-life news room, with the coming and going of reporters seen in the background... I want to loosen up the atmosphere and bring in a younger audience".

Mr Hall appears to have forgotten that not so long ago, when he was the Editor of Television News, the reader of the BBC's *Nine o'Clock News* appeared to exactly that background. But after a while Mr Hall's immediate subordinate, Mr Peter Bell, instructed the coming and going reporters and newsroom staff to stop moving about during transmission because it "distracted the viewers".

Eventually the distracting background was abandoned. Now it is resurrected as another of Mr Hall's forward-looking plans to "bring in a younger audience".

Yours etc,
MICHAEL SULLIVAN
(BBC TV News Correspondent
(1967-94)),
2 Tudor Court,
Amherst Road, Ealing, W13.
June 26.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

How to end the pain of penalties

From Dr J. Stewart

Sir, Following a hard game of football and after extra time, the current method of deciding the result by Russian roulette with penalty goals seems unsatisfactory. Could not a way be devised of deciding the issue on yellow cards and, if this fails, on penalties awarded, only relying on penalty goals as a last resort?

This may, as an added bonus, make for a cleaner game.

Yours etc,
J. STEWART,
The Anchorage,
Green Road, Thorpe, Surrey.
June 27.

From Dr David H. Brims

Sir, Unencumbered as I am with any knowledge of the game of football, I feel free to suggest an alternative to penalty kicks as a way of settling the result of a match. With penalty kicks the element of chance is too high and the pressure on an individual player unreasonable.

If extra time was played with no goalkeepers it would enliven the game, ensure some scoring and involve most of the players. It would be nearer to the spirit of football than the lottery of penalty kicks.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BRIMS,
Sleepy Hollow,
25 Knights Bank Road,
Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire.
June 27.

From Mr R. C. Schad

Sir, I cannot believe that Fifa has not at some time experimented by playing football matches without the offside rule. It seems to me that any too artificial move to increase the number of goals scored would be beneficial both to players and spectators. At the same time it would remove one of the more irritating facets of the game, the offside trap, as well as eliminating controversial offside decisions. Why not try without it?

Yours faithfully,
R. C. SCHAD,
42 Birdhurst Rise,
South Croydon, Surrey.
June 27.

From Mr Andrew Lambert

Sir, The Golden Goal and the penalty shoot-out cause unpleasant types of sudden death. Continuous assessment of goal-scoring and goal-concession throughout a tournament might be fairer for both teams and individuals.

Yours equitably,
ANDREW LAMBERT,
Flat 3, 19 Mason's Yard,
St James's, SW1.
June 27.

From Mr Stephen Cooper

Sir, I have no doubt that when the current goal size was designed the average height of goalkeepers was much less than it is now.

So please, Fifa, make the goals bigger so we can have results during a game of football and not afterwards.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN COOPER,
31 Dempster Road, SW18.
June 27.

From Mr A. M. Law

Sir, Amidst all the media hype of Euro '96, let it not be forgotten that the final will be contested by the only two teams who actually registered a victory in regular time after the qualifying rounds of the competition. It would have been an injustice to have had a final played by teams whose sole route was by way of a penalty shoot-out.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. LAW,
Covington House,
Covington by Thankerton,
Lanarkshire.

From Mr H. I. Axton

Sir, Now that England fans have rediscovered the flag of St George as the flag of England (report, June 25), would it not be a suitable time to change the Union Jack representing England on the plaque at Wembley Stadium depicting the 16 nations which took part in the 1966 World Cup?

Yours faithfully,
H. I. AXTON,
30 Balfour Road, Walmers, Kent.

From the Headmaster of The King's School, Gloucester

Sir, Heard in the corridor this morning was a pupil explaining the non-appearance of Wednesday night's science homework: "But Sir, I hadn't planned on the match going to extra time and a penalty shoot-out."

At least, he will now get his weekend homework done.

Yours etc,
PETER R. LACEY, Headmaster,
The King's School Gloucester,
Pit Street, Gloucester.
June 27.

From Mr David Tinker

Sir, England lost. Tube strike, post strike: where is this "feel-good" factor?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TINKER,
7 Salisbury Close,
Wokingham, Berkshire.
June 27.

'Road rage'

From Mrs Carole Hodson

Sir, Is it not remarkable that "road rage" seems to increase with "traffic calming"?

Yours faithfully,
CAROLE HODSON,
74 Bradley Road,
Upper Norwood, SE19.
June 24.

